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ARAB TIMES

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The Arabian Year Book 1987/88

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في المكتبات

الطبعات والطلبات: ١٩٨٧



HH the Amir

KD deposits settle after panic trade

OVERNIGHT Kuwaiti dinar interbank rates fell back to four per cent after Central Bank intervention had sent them surging to as high as 50 per cent yesterday morning in panic trade, dealers said.

They said the Central Bank apparently intervened late last week to stop what it felt was speculation against the dinar. It first took one-month deposits on Tuesday and Wednesday, and when a shortage developed on Thursday in overnight funds offered to provide them only at a rate of 100 per cent.

Rates shot to 40 per cent on Thursday and as high as 50 per cent early yesterday before easing back to four per cent.

Dealers said the panic was gone by late yesterday, but dealers were still not trading — nor even quoting rates — in the fixed periods. "Everybody is waiting on the sidelines to see what Central Bank policy will be," said one. "The only activity at all was in overnight deposits," he added.

One dealer said the Central Bank had asked for one, — two- and three-month deposits, but banks gave no offers.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar exchange rate easier at 0.27412/22 to the dollar after 0.27406/16 on Thursday ahead of the Friday weekend in the Gulf. Commercial banks quoted the spot dinar at 0.27430/40.

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WEATHER

FAIR weather and temperature will be around normal with light northerly wind.

State of sea: slight

High water: 2.00 am, 4.00 pm

Low water: 9.00 am, 10.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.44 am

Sunset: 5.07 pm

Maximum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 16°C 61°F

Ahmad: 16°C 61°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum temperature expected:

Kuwait: 17°C 63°F

Ahmad: 16°C 61°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 91 per cent

Ahmad: 97 per cent

Falaka: 98 per cent

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 85 per cent

Ahmad: 87 per cent

Falaka: 93 per cent

Minimum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 8°C 46°F

Ahmad: 9°C 49°F

Falaka: 10°C 50°F

Leaders made empty promises Support uprising, Amir urges Arabs

HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, yesterday called on Arabs to firmly support the uprising in the occupied territories, saying it is an opportunity to prove to the world that they can keep their promises by reclaiming the usurped rights of the Palestinians.

The Amir made these comments while receiving Kuna's Board Chairman and Director General Barges Hmoud Al Barges.

The Amir attributed the uprising to long "years of repression and inhuman practices by Israeli authorities."

He added that the uprising expresses the feeling of desperation of Palestinians about the empty promises made by Arab leaders.

"The Palestinians have been banking on long years of Arab promises for support to restore their rights," the Amir said.

They were also promised funds, he said.

The Amir, who is the current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), said that Arabs must take a "serious and unified stance" on the uprising, "to prove to their brothers in the occupied lands, who set a supreme example of sacrifice, that they are fully behind them with heart and soul."

34 Chinese passengers burned to death

BEIJING, Jan 9, (UPI): At least 34 people burned to death when a fire spread by a passenger's bucket of flammable banana oil raced through a crowded car on a train in southern China, the official Xinhua news agency said today.

Thirty other people were injured in the blaze on Thursday, including four railway workers, said reports carried by Xinhua and Chinese newspapers.

The fire erupted aboard a passenger train on the line between Beijing and southern Guangzhou (Canton), while it was stopped at the Matianxi city station in the south of Hunan province.

The No. 6 car, packed with 150 passengers, was "set ablaze," burning 34 people to death, Xinhua said.

"According to a police report, two men and a woman who brought on board a bucket of banana oil, an inflammable liquid, were responsible," Xinhua said.

Another passenger not far away in the train cabin was burning waste paper, the report said, apparently igniting the oil.

The No. 6 cabin and a second car of the train were gutted by the flames before the blaze was put out 30 minutes later, the reports said. Local Army units responded to the scene to assist.

Senior officials of the Guangzhou railway office were sent to continue investigating the cause of the fire, the reports said.

Earthquake rocks Albania

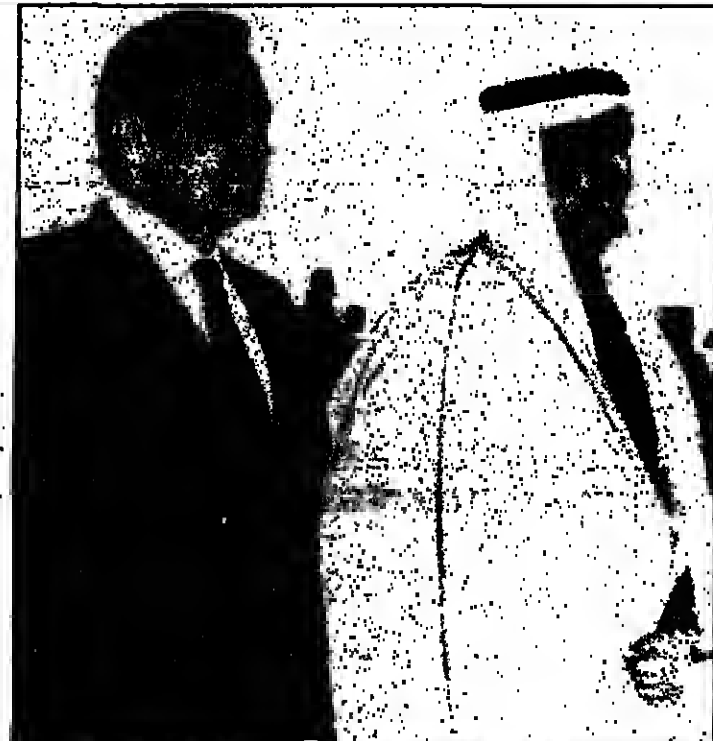
ATHENS, Jan 9, (UPI): A strong earthquake rocked Albania in the early hours today destroying homes in at least four villages, shaking buildings and factories and causing panic-stricken residents of Tirana, the Albanian capital, to run into the streets, Albanian officials said.

The quake in Albania came only hours after tremors hit the Vrancea region of Romania, 100 miles (160 kms) northeast of Bucharest yesterday afternoon, Athens Radio reported. The radio said the tremors were felt in the Romanian capital.

Greek seismological experts described the Albanian quake as the strongest in recent memory. The tremor was almost as strong as the quake which flattened Skopje, the capital of Yugoslavia's Macedonian Republic, in 1973.

Albanian officials said Army units had been mobilised to help with emergency relief but there were no official figures on the number of injured.

"We have no official figures on the number of injured yet, but certainly there have been no deaths," he said, adding that "Army units have been mobilised to help with emergency relief measures."



Egyptian President Mubarak (left) was received by King Fahd after his arrival in Riyadh. (Reuters wirephoto)

Carlucci in talks with King Fahd

RIYADH, Jan 9, (Agencies): US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci met senior Saudi officials today for talks which diplomats said would stress the US commitment to keeping the Gulf sea lanes open.

Carlucci, on the third of a final leg of a Gulf tour, conferred with Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz and later with King Fahd.

Carlucci's talks followed statements by US officials in Washington on Wednesday that two of about 30 US warships in and around the Gulf, the mine-hunting helicopter carrier Okinawa and the battleship Iowa, would be withdrawn in coming months.

Western diplomats said Carlucci made clear on his previous stops in Kuwait and Bahrain that any force reductions would not signal a weakening of Washington's support for moderate Gulf states. They said he would repeat the message in Riyadh.

The US officials in Washington said the Okinawa and the Iowa would be pulled out to save costs and because they were no longer needed.

Three US senators visited Kuwait this week to review the cost, estimated at \$20 to \$38 million a month, of providing US naval escorts for 11 tankers registered in America.

Carlucci, on his first trip to the Gulf since taking over as Defence Secretary two months ago, visited two of the US warships in the region, the Okinawa and the landing ship Mount Vernon.

He told reporters on the Mount Vernon yesterday that the greatest threat to shipping in the Gulf now came from small Iranian craft rather than mines.

"The threat has moved to small craft and means have been developed of coping with that," he said.

A senior naval official travelling with Carlucci said six minesweepers now in the Gulf could hunt mines more efficiently than the helicopters on ships like the Okinawa.

Carlucci is in Riyadh at the same time as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who arrived today at the start of a tour of the GCC.

They will meet on Sunday before Carlucci leaves for Paris and Egyptian sources said they would discuss Iranian threats and US-Egyptian measures to improve the defences of Gulf Arab states.

Egypt and the GCC states give general support to Iraq in its war against non-Arab Iran.

Envoys from Syria, Iran's chief Arab ally, yesterday ended a tour of the Gulf coastal states. Diplomats said they had convinced Iran to delay a major winter offensive against Iraq in preparation for talks between Iran and Gulf Arab states.

The Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat reported that foreign ministers of the Gulf states would meet in Damascus with their Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati to discuss ending the Gulf war and attacks on shipping.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, denied knowledge of any plan for a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and Gulf states seeking to mediate an end to the war.

"I have not heard of that meeting and I have not been notified of it," the official Kuwait News Agency quoted him as saying.

One killed, five injured Gaza Strip sealed off after widespread unrest

GAZA, Jan 9, (Agencies): Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian demonstrator and wounded at least five during widespread unrest in the occupied Gaza Strip today, an Army spokeswoman said.

He was the 29th killed in the occupied territories in a wave of violent protest since Dec 9.

Relief workers said at least 13 people were hurt. The Army requested the loan of a UN ambulance to help ferry the wounded to hospital.

The Amir hailed the Kuwaiti people for their courageous backing of the Palestinians.

He said: "Kuwait has backed and is still backing the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people in the occupied territories through its own means."

He added that Kuwait's support stems from a firm belief that youths are the hope for the future and they will be the ones "to snatch their rights."

Israeli troops had sealed off the entire 350 square km (200 square mile) Gaza Strip to reporters as Palestinian youths hurled stones, blocked roads and flew the banned Palestinian flag.

The new outbreak of unrest erupted as UN Undersecretary General Marrack Gouding began a fact-finding mission to Israel and the occupied lands.

Gouding is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Shimon Peres tomorrow and begin talks with Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The Army said soldiers opened fire after non-lethal means failed to disperse demonstrators at several spots.

"During the incidents, Army forces, after firing teargas and rubber bullets, were compelled to fire in the air, then at demonstrators' legs," a spokeswoman said.

"A resident of Beni Suhaileh, near Khan Yunis, was killed and another wounded."

Three demonstrators at Deir Al Balah were wounded in the legs and a fourth hurt by a rubber bullet at Rafah, near the Egyptian border, she added.

Soldiers at the entrance to the Gaza Strip told reporters the territory was a closed military area off limits to reporters.

Local residents and newsmen already in the Strip when it was sealed said there were violent protests at the towns of Rafah and Khan Yunis and armoured personnel carriers were guarding the entrances to several Palestinian refugee camps.

An Army spokesman denied reports that tanks had been deployed in the Strip.

The spokesman said curfews were imposed on Nuseirat and Khan Yunis refugee camps and the curfew extended at Bouraj Camp, closed since troops shot dead a protester there on Friday.

Businesses throughout the area were closed in apparent response to a strike call by the Islamic Jihad Movement and protesters hurled stones at troops and Arab motorists heading for work in Israel, residents said.

From an Army roadblock on the main coastal road, thick clouds of black smoke could be seen.

(Continued on Page 2)

Mubarak begins Gulf tour with visit to Riyadh

RIYADH, Jan 9, (Agencies): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, making his first journey into Arabia since the resurrection of Cairo in the Arab world in November, arrived in Riyadh today in a show of support for the Gulf states against the threat of Iran.

Mubarak's jetliner soared over the Red Sea and landed this afternoon at Riyadh airport, where he was embraced warmly and kissed by Saudi leader King Fahd to the strains of the Egyptian and Saudi national anthems.

The two leaders immediately began a first round of talks. They are expected to meet again tomorrow before Mubarak flies to the second stop of his tour of the moderate Gulf Arab states, the United Arab Emirates.

Mubarak's talks with Fahd are expected to focus on the threat posed to the Gulf states by the Iraq-Iran war and ways that Egypt — the most populous and powerful Arab nation — can serve as a military and demographic counterweight to Tehran.

Egypt, ostracised by almost all Arab states after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, regained respectability after an Arab League summit in November freed countries to restore relations.

Nine Arab states did so, prompted partially by the threat the Iran-Iraq war may pose to other Gulf states. Mubarak has repeatedly promised support for Arab states against any Iranian aggression.

Egypt's armed forces, totalling 445,000 men, are the largest in the Arab world except for Iraq. Cairo is willing to supply arms and train Arab soldiers but, official sources say it is reluctant to send troops to Gulf states.

Review

Egypt and Saudi Arabia, both strong allies of Washington, were likely to review the possibility of pumping Arab capital into Cairo's arms industry to boost output, the sources said.

The sources said Mubarak, who will visit Washington later this month, hoped to obtain the support of Saudi Arabia and other Arab states for his request for Egypt to be allowed to make or assemble some US weapons.

On the political front, Mubarak wants a United Arab stance on a proposed international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He has said the world cannot take Arab peace efforts seriously while they remain divided.

Mubarak will also visit the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman, which with Saudi Arabia make up the GCC.

Mubarak was quoted today as saying Muslim countries were unlikely to impose sanctions on Iran to force it to end its war with Iraq.

"How do we expect the Muslim world to move to end the Gulf war if it failed to take action after the aggression on its holiest places," he said in an interview with the Saudi daily Al Riyadh.

He was referring to riots in Makkah last July.

"We have always demanded that the Muslim community should stand firmly on the war, especially as it is a war between two Muslim countries," Mubarak said in the interview carried by the Middle East News Agency.

"We must defend ourselves, with all our potential, against any attempt to undermine security and stability in the region."

Raid beaten back, claims Baghdad Iran attacks two Iraqi oil terminals

MANAMA, Jan 9, (AP): Iran claimed today its Revolutionary Guards attacked two disused Iraqi oil terminals in the northern Gulf, killing 100 Iraqis, sinking three frigates and destroying radar equipment.

But Iraq said the raid by a flotilla of 50 small Iranian vessels was beaten back, with 13 of the attacking vessels sunk, in the Friday night clash. It denied the frigates were sunk.

The official Iranian Islamic Republic News Agency (Irna) said Revolutionary Guards naval forces, covered by Iranian coastal artillery fire, attacked the offshore oil terminals at Al Bakr and Al Omayya.

Irna said Iranian artillery would shell Iraqi cities in retaliation for an Iraqi raid yesterday on a refinery near Tabriz.

Shortly after the Tehran announcement, the state-run Iraqi News Agency said Iranian shells crashed into the war-battered southern city of Basra, killing eight people, injuring another 27, and damaging 12 houses and a nursery school.

The Iraqi agency reported the civilian casualties in Basra today and quoted a military spokesman as saying, "we have the ability to destroy any Iranian city." He did not elaborate.

Telegram charges raised

By Fathima Ahmed

THE Ministry of Communications has recently raised telegram charges by 57 fils per word. Previously the cost per word was 98 fils. But since December 155 fils per word are being charged.

The telegraph costs were raised to cope with "foreign account payments," the Assistant Undersecretary for Finance at the Communications Ministry, Jassem Al Wazzan said.

The volume of telegraphic services has declined considerably, particularly due to more subscribers relying on speedier methods such as telex and facsimile.

But this was not the reason for raising prices, said Al Wazzan.

Raised

He said the charges were raised to meet the "foreign account" commitment. The cost of operation between two countries, which provide such services as telegrams and telex, is shared equally by both the countries.

Overseas calls to Arab countries may cost less, if made in the evening, if a proposal under review is implemented, he said.

The ministry is now reviewing the proposal to lower overseas phone call charges for Arab countries. At present, overseas calls to Gulf countries cost less if made in the evenings.

Al Wazzan said charges for overseas calls to countries other than Arab will not change at the moment.

"Only if lower charges for Arab countries are effective, we might review the cost for other countries," he said.

Commenting on services, Al Wazzan said, the number of telex (Continued on Page 4)

Woman's head frozen by cryonics centre

RIVERSIDE, California, Jan 9, (UPI): Coroner's officials trying to determine whether an elderly woman was dead when she was decapitated by a cryonics centre said yesterday that the woman's head had been moved by workers at the centre to hinder the investigation.

Dora Keot, 83, died Dec 11 and was beheaded at the Alcor Life Extension Foundation, which froze her head in hopes her brain could later be reactivated and attached to a body.

During a search of the warehouse facility on Thursday, authorities discovered that Kent's head was missing. Riverside county Coroner's spokesman Dan Cupido said.

Cupido said the head was needed for further investigation into Kent's death.

"The recovering of Keot's head was hindered by facility personnel, who transferred it to an unknown location," Cupido said. "We believe Alcor personnel know where the head is, but they haven't told us. We're hoping they will reveal where it is."

Kent was moved out of a convalescent home by her son and taken to the foundation, where she was denied food and medication for six days before being decapitated.

Cupido said an autopsy on the headless body of the woman had not been completed but there may be reason to suspect Kent was not dead when her head was removed.

Youngest mayor of Karachi

KARACHI, Jan 9, (Reuters): Thousands of supporters mobbed the red stone headquarters of Karachi's Municipal Corporation today as the administration chose a 28-year-old as the youngest mayor in the city's history.

Farooq Sattar, member of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) which dominates the council, was elected unopposed. Sattar graduated from medical school last year.

More than 5,000 MQM supporters mobbed the corporation headquarters in the busiest part of the city, disrupting traffic and looting some shops.

Amnesty

Since October 1986, more than 350 people have died in clashes between the MQM, and rival Pashtun ethnic groups.

MQM chief Altaf Hussain was among 72 political figures from all political and ethnic groups released from jail on Thursday in an amnesty.

Altat told a news conference yesterday: "The poor and exploited classes should first unite and then face the feudal lords."

He said the MQM's victory in local elections on Nov 30 "was a tribute to the unity of the poor and exploited class."

INTERNATIONAL

Bangladeshis urged to boycott polls

Opposition warns voters

DHAKA, Jan. 9. (AP): Opposition parties trying to topple President Hossain Mohammad Ershad have called on voters to boycott parliamentary elections scheduled for next month.

"The people will not spare those who go against public opinion and take part in the game of election," said a statement issued last night by the liaison committee for 20 opposition parties.

Ershad returned today from a six-day visit to the Middle East. The opposition alliance, headed by Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist party, has announced it will not field candidates in the Feb 28 election.

Instead, it has called for a series of public protests, including three days of marches and rallies beginning Jan 17, and a general strike on Jan 20-21, the deadline for nominating candidates.

The opposition alliance headed by Hasina and Mrs Zia

has waged a persistent, two-month-old campaign of strikes and protests, which the government estimates has cost the country \$30 million a day in lost production exports.

Resistance

But Abdur Rab, chairman of a 76-party coalition in favour of holding elections, said "any quarter to foil the forthcoming polls will be resisted to uphold democratic values."

In a statement published by Dhaka newspapers today, Rab referred to the parties supporting Hasina and Mrs Zia as "paper tigers."

But the same charge was made against Rab's coalition by political commentator Faiz Ahmed.

Ahmed said in an interview today that Rab's group "is at best an assortment of 76 zeros. None of its components has any following or mass appeal."

Bangladesh has at least 211 political parties, but most are small.

Today, Ershad looked cheerful and relaxed as he stepped out of his plane at Zia international airport. He was accompanied by his wife Raushan and their son, five-year-old Shadi, on the visit to Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Prayers

During the trip, Ershad met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and then went to Saudi Arabia to offer prayers in Makkah, Islam's holiest city.

It was Ershad's first visit abroad since the opposition campaign to unseat him began Nov 10.

Ershad's Jatiya Party held 213 of the 330 seats in the Parliament he abolished on Dec 6, Hasina's party had 74 seats.

Meanwhile, several truckloads of police were stationed throughout the day outside southern Chittagong University waiting orders to expel more than 200 "armed outsiders" who college officials said occupied parts of the halls of the university in gunbattle Thursday in which

14 persons were injured.

Leftist student leaders said the violence was organised by the government to keep the university from reopening. Authorities Nov 27 closed universities in an attempt to defuse the opposition's campaign begun Nov 10, to force Ershad from office.

The government says 13 people have been killed and some 500 injured in bombing and clashes between anti-government demonstrators and police in the wake of opposition rallies and general strikes. The opposition puts the figures at 32 dead and more than 1,000 injured.

Ershad, a former Army chief of staff who seized power in a bloodless March 1982 coup and imposed more than four years of martial law, declared a state of emergency Nov 27, in a bid to defuse his worst political crisis, slapping restrictions on political activities and media reporting of the campaign.

He later relaxed the restrictions in hopes of cooling tensions.



Two monkeys huddle together, due to cold, on a tree branch in the Tbilisi reserve in the Caucasus mountains of the Soviet Union. (Reuter wirephoto)

Minister to puff last cigarette

ANKARA, Jan. 9. (Reuter): Health Minister Bulent Akarali and a group of Turkish personalities will puff their last cigarettes on state television as part of a colorful campaign to get Turks to give up tobacco.

"The first step in this drive should be to prevent heavy smokers from poisoning others," Akarali told leaders of the Turkish Cancer Research and Fight Foundation. His ministry is working on a draft law to ban smoking in public places, including cinemas, theatres and cafes, and on public transport.

The pungent smell of acrid oriental tobacco has become an accepted norm in Turkey, even in sections of aircraft, hospitals and buses where "no smoking" signs are in full view.

Prescribed rules on smoking bans are set by authorities in each of Turkey's 67 provinces but there is no legal stipulation on what should be done with offenders.

Irrigate may dog Bush's campaign

DES MOINES, Iowa, Jan. 9. (Reuter): The arms-for-Iran scandal seems certain to dog Vice-President George Bush for the rest of this year's presidential campaign in spite of his efforts to put it behind him.

Bush said during a Republican presidential debate on Friday: "I have answered every question put to me save one and the one question is 'What did you tell the president of the United States?' And I shouldn't do that."

He added: "That confidentiality between the President and the Vice-President should remain solid."

His rivals quickly made it clear they would press Bush for details of the part he played in planning the arms deal.

Bill Brock, campaign manager for Senate Republican leader Robert Dole told reporters after the two-hour debate: "The question hasn't been answered. The issue hasn't been addressed."

Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, contesting the Republican nomination for the

November presidential election, challenged Bush on the issue.

"What in heaven's name is going to happen next November if you are our standard bearer and the Democrats get after you on this subject?" he asked.

The debate among the six Republican candidates was considered critical to the outcome of local party votes in Iowa next month.

Bush, leading the battle for the Republican nomination, is way ahead in national opinion polls. But in Iowa he is as much as 15 points behind his chief rival Dole.

The other candidates, Haig, former television Evangelist Pat Robertson, New York representative Jack Kemp, former Delaware Governor Pierre Du Pont, are well behind nationally and in Iowa.

In the opening minutes of the session Bush told moderator James Gannon, editor of the Des Moines Register, that his newspaper had been unfair in its coverage.

Gromyko praises Stalin's diplomacy

MOSCOW, Jan. 9. (AP): President Andrei Gromyko sounded a rare note of praise for Josef Stalin's foreign policy, indicating possible high-level discord about the late dictator's diplomatic legacy.

Gromyko said Stalin, Communist Party chief in 1924-53, "fought like a lion" after World War II to keep Poland out of the West's orbit.

The Soviet President, who was Stalin's ambassador to Washington in 1943-46, made the comments in a meeting last night, with Mieczyslaw Rakowski, vice marshal of Poland's parliament, the Sejm.

Although many of Stalin's acts, including the bloody purges of the 1930s, have come under more criticism recently, there has been little discussion of Kremlin actions during the postwar period and the cold war.

In a recent speech of the Soviet Union's 70-year history, Mikhail Gorbachev criticised Stalin and his contemporaries for having failed to capitalise on opportunities before and after the war.

Gromyko's positive remarks seemed to go against the grain of the Soviet leader's criticism.

Hints

Comments by Soviet officials on postwar Soviet actions in Eastern Europe are closely examined in Poland and other countries of the region for hints they may provide about current policies.

Gromyko's remarks on Stalin were reported in a Russian-language dispatch issued by the official Tass news agency, but were omitted in its initial English-language report. They were later reproduced in full.

Gromyko, who served as his country's Foreign Minister for 28 years, lauded Stalin for his role at the 1945 Potsdam Conference, where he met with the leaders of Great Britain and the United States to debate the future of Europe.

The fate of Poland, which had been liberated from the Nazis by the Red Army earlier in 1945, was one of the chief topics at the Potsdam talks, which Gromyko attended.

He called the debates about Poland's future very stormy, but "the Soviet delegation demonstrated a patience that can be called iron-like. This concerns Stalin first of all."

Stalin, according to Gromyko, "fought like a lion so that Poland would be a socialist state friendly to the Soviet Union, and not an appendage to the Western bloc. And he succeeded."

Gunmen kidnap two candidates

Put off polls, asks Laurel

MANILA, Jan. 9. (Agencies): Vice-President Salvador Laurel called today for postponing this month's elections in a major Luzon island province after gunmen kidnapped two candidates.

Eddie Rodriguez, co-candidate of Laurel's United Nationalist Democratic Organisation in Quezon province, and Rodriguez' running mate, Robert Racelis, were abducted Friday gunpoint as their campaign convoy drove through Mauban, about 110 kms south-east of Manila.

Laurel refused to speculate who was responsible, but the military blamed communist New People's Army guerrillas, who operate in the province. The province has about 1.5 million people.

Voters are to go to the polls Jan 18 to select provincial govern-

ments, mayors and other local officials.

The election commission has already postponed balloting in six southern provinces because of fears of violence.

Elsewhere, police reported that three suspected communist rebels shot dead a military intelligence trooper, Sgt Digno Mamaril, early today while he was shopping in a market in Bacolod city, some 500 kilometres south of Manila. The three fled with the victim's pistol, police said.

Warning

Meanwhile, President Corason Aquino said today communist rebels were intent on enslaving the people of the Philippines by terror.

Her scathing attack on the rebels followed a series of

assaults by the dissidents on military and police centres in the Philippines.

"The communists showed the true colours of the insurgency as a movement dedicated not to peace and the general good, but in the enslavement by terror of our people," she said in a speech at an anniversary celebration of the Manila police force.

Aquino said: "We stopped talking and went back to fighting the communist rebels. As expected, they fought back harder and brought the war to the cities. Our people now know the true face of the enemy."

Military chief General Fidel Ramos has said the insurgency was likely to intensify this year with the New People's Army (NPA) increasing its commando attacks in the cities and raids in the countryside.

Thatcher returns jubilant from African tour

LONDON, Jan. 9. (Reuter): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher ended a visit to two key black African states last night, jubilant at her reception and proclaiming victory in her argument with black states over South Africa.

Thatcher stuck firmly to her rejection of sanctions as a lever to wring change from Pretoria despite opposition from her hosts in Kenya and Nigeria and anti-apartheid demonstrations in Lagos and Kano.

Speaking to reporters as she wound up her five-day trip in the northern Nigerian city of Kano, she said of the sanctions issue: "We have won the argument. All we have now is the rhetoric."

Thatcher said black African states who most vociferously clamoured for sanctions were in no position to implement such action and would eventually accept her view that sanctions would not work and change in South Africa must come from within.

She added that her talks with Presidents Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya and Ibrahim Babangida in Nigeria had built an African bridgehead and created a better understanding.

To a tumultuous finale, Thatcher spent about five hours in sand-shrouded Kano, where more than half a million people turned out to see her call on Emir

(traditional ruler) Ado Bayero and watch a spectacular equestrian pageant from the walls of his ancient palace.

As a crowd surged into the palace courtyard, troops scuffled with members of Thatcher's entourage, biting press secretary Bernard Ingham in the stomach with a rifle butt and manhandling other members of her staff and accompanying journalists.

A statement released by 10 Downing Street after her return said no-one was hurt and Thatcher had no complaint to make. The statement described it as a brief, but frightening moment which "did not mar a highly successful tour."

Her stay in Kano, after previous stops in Lagos and Nairobi, was almost called off when a sand-laden wind called Harmattan, blowing off the Sahara Desert, reduced visibility at the airport almost to zero.

After her Royal Air Force VC10 landed, however, she was greeted by the largest crowd in her life and scenes of colour and pageantry she called fabulous and unforgettable.

But Thatcher's views were not shared by Nigeria's daily newspapers, who had almost unanimously opposed the visit and remained critical during what several called a "fence-mending tour."

China can counter N-attack

PEKING, Jan. 9. (Reuter): China said today that its Army strategic missile force had successfully developed a nuclear counter-attack capability.

The People's Daily, mouthpiece of the Communist Party, said in a brief report that the missile force had become "a very important symbol of national defence."

The newspaper quoted an officer of the unit as telling Chinese journalists on Thursday: "After many test firings it is now certain that China already has reliable nuclear counter-attack potential."

In recent years the missile force—established in 1966, two years after China's first successful nuclear test blast—has been streamlined to raise fighting capacity and war preparedness, he said.

The People's Daily report gave no details of the types or sizes of the missiles and warheads, their bases, their targets, or how the counter-attack potential would be exercised in the event of war.

China issues few public statements on its own nuclear arms, but its official press frequently devotes space to those of the other four nations known to possess them—the United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France—and to East-West disarmament negotiations.

It couples usually objective reporting of such negotiations with commentaries urging the two superpowers to move further and faster towards nuclear disarmament.

Talks proposed with opposition leaders

Chun offers reconciliation

SEOUL, Jan. 9. (AP): President Chun Doo-hwan has proposed talks with three top opposition leaders to seek national reconciliation, the President's office announced today.

Chief presidential secretary Kim Yoo-Whan said Chun is expected to hold separate meetings with Kim Young-Sam, Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Jong-Pil next week.

The three Kims were candidates in the Dec 16 presidential election, which they lost to ruling party candidate Roh Tae-Woo.

Kim Young-Sam, head of the main opposition Reunification Democratic Party, said he will accept Chun's offer.

The two other opposition leaders, through aides, expressed their willingness to meet Chun.

The presidential office was announced one day after the ruling Democratic Justice Party and three opposition parties resumed talks for the first time since the presidential election, which Roh won with 36.6 per cent of the vote.

The opposition claims the victory was achieved through fraud. Government officials have denied the accusations.

Legislation

The talks began Friday are to deal with legislation relating to the National Assembly elections that are to be held before April.

Roh, earlier, had proposed meetings with the three Kims to seek national reconciliation.

The opposition has so far failed to present concrete evidence to substantiate the charges of election fraud, and there has been little public response to calls by Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam to fight the election result.

Gorbachev likely to visit India this year

NEW DELHI, Jan. 9. (UPI): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev this year is likely to pay his second visit to India, the Press Trust of India said.

The news agency, in a dispatch from Moscow, quoted "knowledgeable circles in the Soviet capital" as saying that "in all probability" Gorbachev would come to India in November to receive the Indira Gandhi International Award for Peace, Disarmament and Development.

Gorbachev's selection for the award was announced late last year.

The Press Trust said Gorbachev's visit would coincide with the end of a year-long festival of the Soviet Union that began this past November.

Asked about the report, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "I am not in a position to say anything now. If it is coming, let us wait for the formal announcement."

Gorbachev spent four days in New Delhi in November 1986, holding extensive talks with Rajiv on Indo-Soviet political, economic and military relations.



Gorbachev

White House chef resigns

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9. (UPI): Jon Hill has decided to quit as White House chef after only four months on the demanding job.

Elaine Crispin, First Lady Nancy Reagan's press secretary, announced today that Hill "gave notice that he will be leaving that position to return to the hotel industry."

Hill, 33, a native of Spokane, Washington, replaced Henry Haller last September after Haller resigned as chef of the White House kitchens.

There had been unconfirmed reports that the food Hill prepared for state dinners was below standards. Crispin, however, said she was not aware of dissatisfaction on the part of the First Lady.

But the White House press release announcing Hill's departure did not include the usual statement of appreciation from Mrs Reagan.

Gaza Strip sealed off after unrest

(Continued from Page 1)

seeing rising from towns and refugee camps as residents barricaded roads with blazing tyres.

In the West Bank, soldiers clamped curfews on the Balata and Amari refugee camps and most businesses were closed, security sources said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told the three visiting US senators yesterday he will propose negotiations on full autonomy for Palestinians in the occupied territories once calm is restored to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, his spokesman said.

The US-mediated Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt offer Palestinians autonomy but the final status of the occupied territories is to be determined by Israel, Jordan and Egypt.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat today called for the deployment of UN forces to protect Palestinians from Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Arafat said in an ABC television "Nightline" interview that he had already asked the UN Security Council to put protection of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on its agenda.

"What I am preferring is UN forces," he said.

Arafat also rejected today a proposal by Shamir for talks on autonomy for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"After the Israeli failure to liquidate the Palestinian popular uprising, Shamir tried his luck through this cheap bribe," Arafat said.

"Our people, who gave all those great sacrifices for its just and sacred cause, cannot be bribed."

Syria called on the West today to stop military and economic aid to Israel in protest at its crackdown on Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Punjab politician shot dead

AMRITSAR, Jan. 9. (Reuter): Suspected Sikh extremists shot dead a state politician and his driver, and then set their bodies ablaze on a rural road in the north Indian state of Punjab today, police said.

They said the body of former Punjab Public Relations Minister Tarlochan Singh Riyasati and his driver, Gurnam Singh, were doused with petrol and ignited near Ludhiana.

A jailed extremist leader, Salim Singh Bawa, was freed from custody near Amritsar today when his police escort was ambushed while he was being moved. Police have said Bawa was suspected of involvement of the massacre of 36 bus passengers in neighbouring Haryana state last year.

Earlier today, police said, extremists fighting for an independent Sikh homeland, also killed a village headman's wife and a youth in separate incidents in Punjab.

Riyasati, then a member of the main Sikh political party the Akali Dal, served in the Punjab government in the late 1970s. He recently switched allegiance to the Congress (I) party headed by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Earlier this month, another former state minister and Congress (I) state politician, Jagat Ram, also was killed by suspected extremists.

Jordanian cabinet reshuffled

AMMAN, Jan. 9. (Reuter): Jordanian Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifai reshaped his cabinet today, bringing in nine new ministers and altering several ministries, the official news agency Petra said.

The key posts of foreign affairs, interior, finance, and occupied territories were left unchanged in Rifai's third reshuffle since forming his government in April 1985.

Jordan has no political parties and the previous cabinet changes have not signalled major shifts in the country's foreign or domestic policies.

Several ministries were split up or merged in the reshuffle and six ministers lost their jobs. Political sources said Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali, whose job was taken by Education Minister Dhungan Al-Hindi, appeared to be the main casualty.

Hani Al-Khasasneh took over as Information Minister, replacing Mohammed Al-Khatib who underwent open heart surgery last year.

Petra said King Hussein had sworn in the new members of the 26-member cabinet.

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Training course for pharmacists

TWENTY-TWO pharmacists from Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health will begin a one-week training course as part of the requirements for a Clinical Pharmacist diploma programme offered in cooperation with the Queen's University of Belfast.

Dr Abdullah Al Kharas, the supervisor of the programme, said that the ministry began providing the diploma course work three years ago in an effort to develop the pharmacological services in the country.

He explained that clinical pharmacists work as part of the medical team in hospital wards in dispensing medication to patients and play a significant part in intensive care units.

New health card plan

Dr Mohammed Sami Matar, the Director of the Primary Health Department and Director of Kuwait's Farwaniya Health Area, said that the Ministry of Health had begun receiving health information of citizens and expatriates being disseminated by the Public Authority for Civil Information.

He added that the ministry plans to complete the issuance of new health cards one year from the renewal of the health files according to the civil information.

He explained that the civil card would be considered as a substitute for the health card until completion of the new health cards.

Two-hour-old baby makes V for victory sign

A V for victory sign was made by a two-hour-old Palestinian baby who kept it up for over two hours.

This happened two days ago at the Hadi Clinic.

The father, Khalil Hassan Abdul Hadi, was amazed when he went to have his first look at his baby and saw him making the V for victory sign. He thought

there was something wrong with the fingers and tried to set them right but the baby insisted on making the sign.

The father told a local newspaper he considered the baby's action a signal of good news and that there would be early victory for the Palestinian people.

Picture shows the baby making the V for victory sign.

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Kuwait free from AIDS: Awadi

KUWAIT'S Public Health Minister, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi affirmed that Kuwait is free from the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), denying reports that there are AIDS cases that are covered with secrecy.

In a statement to a Kuwaiti daily, published yesterday, the Kuwaiti minister affirmed that the Ministry does not hide anything from the public.

He noted, however, that there are expatriates who are carrying the AIDS virus but are not suffering from the disease.

On the possibility of imposing compulsory blood tests on those coming to or leaving Kuwait, the health official said the issue has been discussed several times and could be implemented if there is a real need for it.

He indicated in that respect to Iraq's application of compulsory

AIDS test on those arriving to or leaving the country, adding that the Arab health ministers and the Gulf ministers bureau expressed willingness to cooperate with the health authorities in Iraq.

Shield

The minister stressed that the Islamic culture and teachings are the main shield against the spread of AIDS in Kuwait and other Arab countries. He stressed that the ministry is not facing any problems in dealing with the number of expatriates carrying the AIDS virus. He said that the ministry is not keeping quiet on this issue and continuously following any development in this field. He added that the ministry examined many persons who are more likely to carry the AIDS or being infected with it for travels abroad and staying in some countries for long.

Medical charges for visitors from July

DR NAEL Al Naqib, the Undersecretary of Kuwait's Public Health Ministry, said that the ministry would impose medical charges effective July 1988, on expatriates entering the country on a visitor's visa issued by a Kuwaiti embassy abroad or by the Interior Ministry.

He explained that the law did not apply to those whose visas expired while under treatment in the hospital or to those who had been admitted to the hospital for treatment during the grace period granted by the Interior Ministry for final departure from the country.

Dr Naqib added that according to the decision, wives and children of military personnel and non-Kuwaiti military personnel discharged from the Army or police force within the past ten years.

The undersecretary said that KD105 would be charged per week to general wards and KD280 per week for a private room and that 50 per cent of the cost for surgery would be charged to the patient.

Al Naqib said that a temporary health card would be issued to visitors for KD5 which would be valid for one month.

Symposium on raising milk cows

A SYMPOSIUM was held by Kuwait's Agricultural Engineers Society on current conditions for raising milk cows in Kuwait on Thursday at the society's headquarters in Kafan.

Abdul Rida Bahman, the Director of Treatment Services at the Agricultural and Fish Resources Authority, said that it is important to Kuwait's food security that the country be able to raise cows in Kuwaiti farms. He added that most farmers in Saudi Arabia were not fully knowledgeable in the field of raising milk cows and that most farmers import cows from European countries, and that they are usually slaughtered two years after they are brought to Kuwait because of health or commercial reasons.

The director said that Kuwait is a small country which lacks large farming areas and faces numerous problems in marketing dairy products, manpower shortages and dairy cow production and development.

Czechoslovakia condemns Israel CZECHOSLOVAKIA has strongly condemned the Israeli decision to expel Palestinians from occupied Arab territories.

A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry said the act was a violation of human rights and international law.

The statement said that an international conference was the only real way to settle the critical situation to the occupied territories and to settle the Middle East crisis.

Checking validity of commodities A SOURCE at Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that authorities at the ministry and Kuwait Municipality would soon complete a draft law organising the work of the Consumer Protection Department and the Health Affairs Department in checking the validity dates on commodities sold in markets and cooperative societies.

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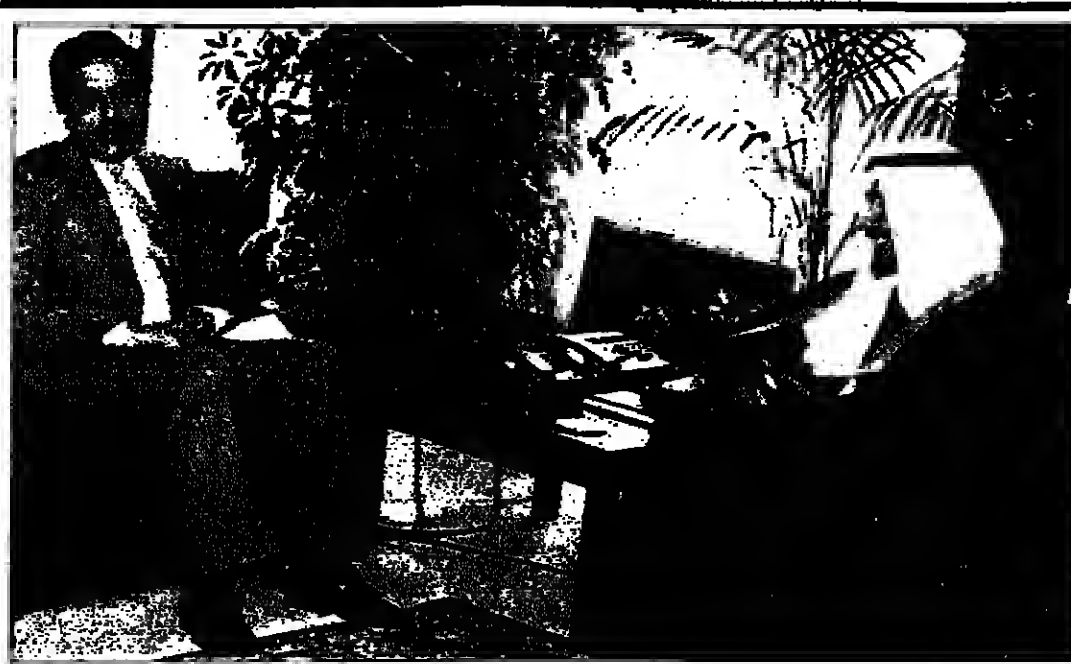
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HH the Amir is pictured with the Yemeni Minister, Rashed Mohammed, Thabit, who delivered to the Amir a message from President Al Attas.

Project for growing mushrooms opens

AHMAD Al Naqib the Deputy Director General of Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth, opened a project for growing mushrooms at the Husseini Al Qattan farm in the Wafra area recently.

The owner of the first mushroom farm in Kuwait, Hussein Al Qattan, said that the farm was the first of its kind in the Arab Gulf area and depended on modern technology and scientific methods to grow the sensitive plant.

Al Qattan added that the government had been very supportive of agricultural work in Kuwait in subsidising projects and production, but added that they could do even more.

The chairman of the Wafra Agricultural Society Khaled Al Essa, speaking at the opening, said that the work of farmers should be appreciated because of the severe conditions in which they have to work. He added that with the area involved in political wars it is important that the minimum food needs be insured.

No fees charged

ABDUL MOHSEN Al Saed, the Assistant Undersecretary of Kuwait's Education Ministry for Student Affairs and Information, said that the ministry does not charge any fees for students taking the Secondary School Certificate Examinations. He added that the fees charged by the education ministry last October were not charged secondary schools or literacy centres. He clarified further that the ministry will charge KD30 for poor regular students who are studying for the examinations at home and that the ministry had no plans to charge any additional fees during the present academic year.

Preparations for Anti-Smoking Day

DR Hussein Momen, the Secretary for Kuwait's Cancer Control and Anti-Smoking Society, said that the society is preparing for the International Anti-Smoking Day on April 7.

He said that a special national festival would be held to mark the occasion and that members of the society would collect information on the progress of the anti-smoking and cancer education campaigns.

Momen said that he hoped that the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry would contribute to the national effort to control smoking by getting local cigarette distributors and

Oil spills destroying Arabian Gulf

WASHINGTON, Jan 9, (Kuna): The Iran-Iraq war is destroying the Arabian Gulf, dumping thousands of gallons of spilled oil from attacked ships and oil platforms into the sea and creating miles of blackened beaches and dead coral reefs, according to an expert.

Richard Criddle, biochemist at the University of California at Davis, said in an interview distributed by the Scripps Howard news service that since the war began in 1979 missiles and gunboats have attacked more than 400 ships in the Arabian Gulf, a body he described as an innately fragile environment because of its fluctuating temperatures and high salinity.

Research He added only two ships have sunk, but the damaged ones gush oil until their cargo can be transferred to an undamaged compartment in the ship or another vessel.

Criddle has been involved in research in the Arabian Gulf for the last seven years. Each year, he spends one or two months at the University of Kuwait studying

the Arabian Gulf catfish, which secretes a jelly-like substance that speeds the healing of wounds in humans up to 30 per cent faster than normal.

The biochemist, who lived in Kuwait in 1980-81, also said, "Four rigs were hit directly. One poured oil into the sea for nearly three months at the rate of 50,000 gallons per day."

As a result of all the oil spills, he said, tens of miles of beaches on the west side of the Gulf have been transformed into wide stretches of hard, black pavement. Criddle assumes the same is happening on the east side, along the coast of Iran.

"The oil just lays there, oxidises to the heat, forms a pavement, and has macadamised the beach," he said. "Algae don't even grow on top of it very well, because it's so toxic."

Criddle also said that 40 per cent of fringe reefs along the coast off Qatar and 20 to 30 per cent off Bahrain have died.

He added that schools of dolphins have disappeared. Catches of fish have increased substantially.

Tugs douse tanker fire

DUBAI, Jan 9, (Renter): A Cypriot supertanker anchored in Jebel Ali Port for repairs to damage caused by a missile strike was set ablaze in an accident today, shipping sources said.

Port authorities said there were no casualties in the fire on the 259,447-tonne Anax, hit by an Iraqi Exocet missile on December 2 as it sailed in the northern Gulf under charter to Iraq.

They said fire-fighting tugs had brought the blaze under control. They did not know what caused it, but shipping sources said it was probably due to a repair accident.

The shipping sources reported that a West German freighter escorted to a southern Iranian

port for inspection 12 days ago had been released and was expected in Jebel Ali later today.

A spokesman for Great Circle Line, Gulf agents for the 31,205-tonne Norasia Pearl, said none of the vessel's cargo had been impounded.

The spokesman said the Norasia Pearl, carrying foodstuffs, textiles and building materials from Europe, would unload at Jebel Ali and Sharjah before sailing to the Far East.

The ship was detained by an Iranian warship on December 28 and taken to the port of Bandar Abbas for inspection. Iran often detains foreign merchant ships it suspects of carrying war cargo for Iraq, its Gulf war foe.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

Message from Attas

HH the Amir yesterday received a message from the President of Democratic Yemen, Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osaibi and the Yemeni ambassador to Kuwait.

Meanwhile, a ceremony will be held at Sief Palace today during which Adam Zadah and Saoud Mohammed Rifat will present their credentials to the Amir as respective ambassadors of Niger and Egypt to Kuwait.

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed, the Minister of Electricity and Water, Mohammed Abdul Mohsen Al Rifai, the Finance Minister, Josem Al Khorafi and director general of Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duolji Al Sabah.

Sheikh Saad also received Secretary General of Supreme Council for Planning, Fuad Mula Hussein, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Morocco, Abdul Aziz Al Sarawi, and the Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait, Omer Al Ghazali, on the occasion of ending his mission here.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Mubarak's tour

A KUWAIT newspaper yesterday said that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's Gulf tour is significant because it follows the resumption of relations between Egypt and Arab Gulf states.

Al Rai Al Aam noted, in a front-page editorial, that Mubarak's position towards the Iraq-Iran war, the Lebanese crisis and other key Arab issues proves that Egypt never left the Arab arena, particularly at crucial times.

"Egypt," the daily underlined, "did that on good faith and was not waiting for a price for what it believes is national duty dictated by brotherly relations."

The paper said that despite the long break in relations between Egypt and the Gulf states the ties never ceased to exist, warning against sceptics who believe that the tour has ill intentions.

Mubarak's Gulf tour kicked off yesterday with a visit to Saudi Arabia.

Prisoners' list for Amiri pardon being compiled

COL. Abdul Mohsen Al Dawahish, the Director-General of the Law Enforcement and Prisons Department, said that the list of prisoners to be released by Amiri decree on Kuwait's National Day, February 25, was being compiled by a committee under the supervision of the Interior Ministry.

Col Dawahish, speaking to Seyassah newspaper, said that the Interior Ministry also plans to introduce new military rank for women who wish to work in the field of law enforcement and prisons. He added that the ministry was also working with the Immigration, Residence and General Prosecution Department to establish a travel document which would eliminate problems for people with the same name.

The director general said that 3,212 men had been sentenced in 1987 and 696 women during the same period for offences ranging from employee - employer disputes and Residence Law violations. He explained that prisoners with light sentences were separated from those serving longer sentences and that women were given special facilities allowing them to nurse their infants when needed and to attend rehabilitation programmes such as typing and sewing.

He said that sentences issued in absentia would involve placing the person convicted on a blacklist if residing in the country, with all checkpoints alerted for their arrest and if they were outside the country, Interpol was brought in to help in their arrest.



Picture shows trainees attending the opening ceremony.

Security training for 30 officers

THIRTY security men from the Hawalli suburb are attending a training course, now being held at Kuwait's Police Academy.

The training programme was opened by the Director of the Security Officers Institute, Lt. Col. Yusuf Al Saudi.

Representatives from governorates and the Police Academy also attended the opening ceremony.

Among them were Major Abdullah Al Whabe, Captain Mohammad Al Asour and First Lieutenant Rashed Al Whabe.

18 road mishaps

AHMADI suburb had the largest number of road mishaps in Kuwait yesterday. Of the total of 18 accidents, 10 occurred in Ahmadi. There were five road mishaps in Jahra and three in Hawalli.

Illegal farms to be removed

A KUWAITI daily reported that the Public Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources Authority will soon remove all farms in violation of legal statutes in Abdali, Wafra and Subaihiya and that a four-man committee has been formed from the Ministries of Interior, Defence, Kuwait Municipality and the authority to supervise the enforcement.

The daily explained that these measures were the result of the increase in people fencing areas of land and claiming the land as private property.

Kuwaiti envoy meets Syrian ministers

DAMASCUS, Jan 9, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Ambassador to Damascus Ahmad Al Jasssem met today with Oil and Mineral Resources Minister, Dr. Maniuh Habib and Tourism Minister Adnan

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Travel agencies welcome new air transport law

ACCORDING to a number of travel agency directors the recent law regulating air transport in Kuwait will guarantee the rights of travel agencies and passengers.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, Mahrous Hasanin, the director of a local agency, said that the law was badly needed since so many new travel offices had been established recently. He explained that the law covers most aspects of booking and that citations would be issued for reservations violations.

He said that it was important that the Civil Aviation Department

ment closely enforce the law for it to be effective in protecting the rights of passengers.

Protect

Imad Jaber, another travel agency director, said that agencies had requested such a law previously, but the Civil Aviation Department had tried to prevent its implementation until the situation became almost uncontrollable. He explained that although some passengers thought the law would hurt them and that prices would be higher, it would, in fact protect them and ensure that travel agencies

adhere to the law.

In another interview, the General Director of Air Transport at the Public Department for Civil Aviation, Dawoud Bourisli, said that a meeting will be held next Sunday with all airlines to reach an agreement on a new price index. He explained that the new law in air transport emphasises direct communication among travel agencies which will ensure that flights are confirmed more accurately and rapidly. He added that it is best to make reservations through telex because it prevents fake reservations from being made.

Brazil bags \$5b contract to supply tanks to Saudis

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Jan. 8. (UPI): Brazil has won a \$5 billion contract to supply 1,200 main battle tanks to Saudi Arabia, the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper reported yesterday.

Folha said the contract was won by the Engesa Company, which placed its 42-ton EE-T1 Osorio tank against the French AMX-40, the British Challenger, and the American M1A2 in trials through September.

An Engesa executive, asking not to be named, confirmed the tank was tested for the Saudi contract but refused to say if or when a deal would be signed.

Folha said the deal will be signed by the end of January. It said that as a final sales clin-

cher, Brazilian Army Minister Gen. Leonidas Pires Goncalves flew to Riyadh last November carrying a rare red parrot as a present for Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, the chief Saudi negotiator.

The Brazilian tank went into a final test against the American General Dynamics vehicle and showed better operational resistance to desert heat, Folha said.

An initial batch of 236 Osorio tanks will be shipped this year. During the life of the contract Brazil will install an assembly factory in Saudi Arabia and transfer technology, the paper said. They will carry a 120mm laser-sighted canon and night-fighting equipment.

Engesa is Brazil's biggest arms manufacturer. It has sold hundreds of light six-wheeled armoured troop carriers and scout cars around the world, in particular to Third World nations in the Middle East and Latin America.

Officially, the government does not comment on arms sales. They are disguised in export figures within general headings like "vehicles" or "airplanes" or "electronic equipment".

But non-government industry analysts put annual exports at between \$1.5 and \$2 billion.

The highest reported deal to date was \$500 million of Astros ground to ground rockets sold last year, also to Saudi Arabia.



● Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday received the copy of credentials of the new Egyptian Ambassador, Saeed Mahmoud Rifaat. Picture shows Sheikh Sabah receiving the Egyptian envoy.

Lack of preparation leads to cheating in exams

KUWAIT'S Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri recently said that the problem of cheating was one of the main obstacles facing the educational process in Kuwait. A number of educators have attributed the widespread cheating in examinations at schools and Kuwait University to the lack of preparations by students for the exams.

Educators also said that the types of examination questions, the school administration and the home were also responsible for the problem, while the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at Kuwait University's science faculty, Dr Ahmad Al Jassar, said that the causes of cheating were mainly educational. He said that students in Kuwait were accustomed from childhood to

having everything easy and that when given homework they had their parents or family members do it for them. He said that if this is to be avoided children must be taught to depend on themselves.

Suspension

Dr Al Jassar said that students caught cheating in exams in the science faculty face possible suspension, and Dr Abdul Fattah of Kuwait University said that male students cheat more than females. He explained that this was largely due to the fact that females spend more time in preparation for exams than males.

Other educators expressed concern that cheating in examinations would affect the behaviour of students when they assume positions as adults.

Arbitration committee formed

THE Secretary-General of the Arab Towns Organisation (ATO) Abdul Aziz Al Adasani, said that the ATO set up a new arbitration committee for the awarding of the organisations architectural prizes. He said that he would head the committee with the membership of Ibrahim Shabouh from Tunis, Hamed Shueh from Kuwait, Saleh Al Hazlou from Saudi Arabia, Taleb Al Taleh from Iraq, Abdul Latif Al Hijami from Morocco and Dr Ali Raafat from Egypt.

Al Adasani said that the committee will review the names of candidates nominated for the ATO prize by individual countries and then select the winners, whose names will be announced at a special festival in Doha on February 22, 1988.

The ATO will present three prizes: one for the best architectural project designed for an Arab city, one for the best design in architectural heritage for an Arab city and one for the most outstanding contribution by an Arab engineer in the preservation of Islamic and Arab architectural styles.

Kuwaiti Week in Rome planned

ROME, Jan. 9. (Kuna): The Kuwaiti Embassy here was today reported to be coordinating with the Arab-Italian Friendship Society and some leading communications agencies to organise a Kuwaiti cultural week marking the Kuwait Independence Day on February 25.

This is for the first time that the Kuwait Embassy is organising here a cultural event to provide a panoramic view of life in the State of Kuwait, Kuwait Embassy officials here said.

The week will include exhibits and lectures on the development of Kuwait in various areas, the officials added.

Periodical labour meetings stressed

SECRETARY - General of Labour and Social Affairs Ministers Council at Gulf Cooperation Council, Kamel Al Saleh, yesterday underlined the importance of holding periodical meetings to promote labour and social work among GCC states.

Upon arrival, Saleh told Kuna that the council's ninth session which opens in Kuwait tomorrow will touch on the implementation of the council's previous sessions and obstacles which hinder them.

The meeting's agenda includes among other things, the follow-up of the production of a joint TV programme on labour and social work guidance, a handbook on professional classification in GCC as well as voluntary social work.

Naqib for Cairo

DEPUTY Director-General of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources Ahmed Al Naqib left yesterday to Cairo to represent Kuwait in the agricultural coordination conference for Arab countries.

Accompanying Al Naqib to the conference, scheduled to start today, is the economic adviser at the authority Dr Abdullahtheem Mohammed.

Mrs. Cecelia D'Souza of Mangalore, Karnataka, expired in Bombay due to a sudden heart attack on 8th Jan, 1988.

May her soul rest in peace - Amen.

Inserted by A.V. Perakuru

No date set for foreign ministers meet

KUWAIT'S Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday said that no date has yet been set for an Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss developments in the occupied Arab lands.

Answering questions from reporters, Sheikh Sabah added that, despite completion of the quorum, a date for the meeting was not agreed upon yet.

Sheikh Sabah had announced in a previous statement Kuwait's acceptance of holding such a meeting which Libya called for beside a similar invitation from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah presided over a ministerial committee yesterday that included the Ministers of Oil, State for Foreign Affairs, Justice and Legal Affairs, Finance, Planning and a councillor at the Amiri Diwan.

Sheikh Sabah said, the committee reviewed a number of suggested treaties that would be signed between Kuwait and other countries.

Sheikh Sabah received Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri, who introduced to him Dr Abdul Rahman Saleh Al Mubailan as the new director-general of the Public Authority for Applied Science and Training with the rank of undersecretary.

Later in the day, Sheikh Sabah also received Kuwaiti Ambassador to Qatar, Khalifa Al Musallam.

Focus on education development

DR Nabil Shaath, the Chairman of the Arab Engineering and Management Experts Centre, said that GCC countries had focused on the first stage of its development plan for basic education at the secondary and university levels. He added that GCC countries had achieved significant progress during the oil boom but depended on the Arab and foreign workforce.

He explained that the current challenge of the Iraq-Iran war necessitated dependence on national manpower and then other Arab manpower.

Shaath said that the Arab experiments in technical education had been mostly unsuccessful, but added that such experiments were separated from the comprehensive education development plans.

NHA to distribute more houses in '88

THE National Housing Authority (NHA) will distribute 2,236 plots of land, 1,167 houses and 524 flats in 1988, said an official.

Assistant Director-General, Farid Al Ajeel said they will be distributed in the months of January, February, June and December.

Al Ajeel admitted construction defects in houses built in the Al Dhaher area.

Women

NHA does maintenance of the houses in Al Dhaher and is trying to rectify the defects detected in houses. "We have taken the matter seriously and will repair the houses as soon as possible," Al Ajeel said.

The flats in the Al Sawabir Complex, expected to be built by February, will be distributed

next month, he said.

Answering a question, Al Ajeel told a local daily Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis still have the right to government housing. "They have not lost their right to public housing but the matter is pending, awaiting the new housing policy being announced," he said.

The new policy will be announced within the next two months. "Kuwaiti women will be given due consideration," he added.

Three-storey buildings will be constructed on 900 square metres of land in the new housing plan, he said. Houses will also be built on 400 square metres.

Citizens are also entitled to land, which will be distributed in various areas in Kuwait.

Telegram charges raised

(Continued from Page 1)

subscribers and telegram service users has declined in the last few years due to the general economic situation in the country. This, he said, has been offset by rise in phone and other service users. Telephone subscribers have increased due to the opening of new exchanges in Kuwait, raising revenue steadily from all services except postal, he said.

During January to June, 1987, of the fiscal year 1986-87, revenues totalled KD 67 million. From July to November of the current fiscal year, it was KD 35 million. The postal revenue has stabilised at about KD 4 million for the last two years, he said.

Phone and subscribers of other facilities are not paying their dues on time. "The biggest problem is non-payment by telephone subscribers," said Al Wazzan.

Al Wazzan has urged telephone subscribers to pay their dues on time. Subscribers owe the ministry a total of KD 24 million. Tough measures have been introduced to force defaulters to pay their dues. Yet, thousands are yet to pay bills ranging from as little as KD 50 to others running into thousands of dinars.

Subscribers are billed monthly. If bills are not paid, repeated warnings are given over the phone, giving subscribers 24 hours to pay the dues. If this warning is disregarded, the telephone line is disconnected. "If subscribers pay the dues

within two months - 60 days - of disconnection, we reconnect the lines. If they don't turn up within the given time, the subscriber will be considered a new applicant," explained Al Wazzan.

"Our goal is to provide services. We don't want to get into the hassle of disconnecting lines and taking people to court," said Al Wazzan.

Reconnections within two months cost the subscriber KD 5. After that period, they have to pay about KD 65, the amount charged to new subscribers.

New phone subscriptions are easily available due to the expansion of the telephone network and new exchanges in Jleeb Al Shiyyokh, Ras Salimiya and Hawalli.

Parallel

Provision has also been made for overseas calls at the five exchanges in Kuwait, reducing waiting time for such calls. The introduction of the magnetic card, costing KD 3, KD 5, and KD 10 will also cut back waiting, enabling speedier connections.

Al Wazzan said the ministry is aware of the parallel phone network run by private companies in the city and Fahaheel areas. He said the company-owners were told "not to indulge in illegal practices."

"The ministry does not lose any money as they (the companies) pay the bills on time. But they are charging more than the amount permitted by us - thus is not legal," said Al Wazzan.

Bhutan condemns Israel

BHUTANI Ambassador to Kuwait Santi Dorgi asserted, in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper published yesterday, the need for strengthening Kuwait-Bhutan relations, which he said, are based on friendship and cooperation in most fields.

The ambassador said Bhutan is pursuing a non-aligned policy and recalled that his country has condemned attacks on Kuwait and supported the UN Security Council resolution 598 which

called for an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Bhutan, he added, supports the cause of the Palestinian people and condemns Israel's policies and its occupation of Arab territories.

Dorgi said his country was grateful for the economic assistance it has received from Kuwait, citing two soft loan agreements under which Bhutan received 6.2 million Kuwaiti dinars to finance industrial projects.

Cypriot ship blacklisted

THE Cypriot vessel Princessan has been blacklisted for cruising to the Israeli ports and dealing with the subsidiaries of the American company Avon Inc. in Europe.

A release put out yesterday by the Israel Boycott Office of Kuwait said the Cypriot ship which was formerly registered as

Princessa Marissa shall not be allowed to call on Arab ports for water, fuel or supplies.

The boycott office release said the ban on European subsidiaries of the American company Mallickrodt Inc. whose parent company in the United States is Avon Inc. remains in effect as per the decision taken last May 9.



● A large number of children took part in a Holy Quran contest organised by the Kindergarten and Childhood Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. The children also competed in an Islamic awareness contest. The winners received prizes. Picture shows Shaikh Hani Abdul Fedil conducting the competitions.

Municipality achievements during 1987

RASHED Al Usman, the Director General of Kuwait Municipality, reviewing the accomplishments of 1987, said that the Cleanliness Law was the most important achievement for the Municipality during 1987.

He added that in 1987 the Municipality had also managed to move the vegetable market from Kuwait City to its new location in Shuwaikh, a number of bridges for pedestrians had been completed at a cost of about KD 3 million, contracts were given to several local companies for garbage collection and cleaning, and a contract had been signed to implement a computer system in the Municipality work.

Al Usman added that two stages of the Waterfront Project had been completed last year at a cost of KD 52 million, which covered six kilometres along the coast, and that the area around Kuwait Towers and the green island had been developed as part of this project.

The director general said that the Safat Square project which developed the area and organised traffic movement was completed in 1987 at a cost of about KD 4.75 million and that the old court building had been renovated at a cost of about KD 550,000.

He added that the Municipality will carry out a project for building a larger capacity slaughterhouse and is studying a project for central control of traffic signals in the country in cooperation with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

photo & cine

CONGRATULATIONS!

THE FOLLOWING IS THE LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS FOR THE FINAL DRAW OF SAKURA COLOUR LAB "LUCKY DRAW" HELD ON 7/1/88 IN PRESENCE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR & MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, MR. NASSER OAB, GENERAL MANAGER OF YOUSSEF ALGHANIM & SONS, AUTOMATIVE OPERATIVE DIVISION WAS ALSO PRESENT, MR. HASSAN OSHAI, ALI RAHMAN & SYEO SATTAR WERE PRESENT FROM PHOTO & CINE.

PRIZE	WINNING TICKET NO.
1st PRIZE	CHEVROLET SPECTRUM 88 CAR 13819
RESERVE CARO NUMBER FOR CAR 34138	
IN CASE THE OWNER OF THE WINING CARO DOES NOT CLAIM HIS PRIZE BY FEB. 7th 1988 HERE THE OWNER OF THE RESERVE NUMBER BECOMES THE WINNER.	
2nd PRIZE	CANON CANOVISION VIDEO CAMERA VME1 30467
3rd PRIZE	AIR TICKET - KUWAIT - SINGAPORE/KUWAIT 48227
4th PRIZE	AIR TICKET - KUWAIT - AMSTERDAM/ KUWAIT 3829
5th PRIZE	PHILIPS COLOR TV 26" 4139
6th PRIZE	PHILIPS WASHING MACHINE 9585
7th PRIZE	PHILIPS VIDEO WITH REMOTE CONTROL 33887
8th PRIZE	PHILIPS MICROWAVE OVEN 43400
9th PRIZE	PHILIPS REFRIGERATOR 4485
10th PRIZE	PHILIPS COMPACT DISC 26801
11th PRIZE	PHILIPS COOKING RANGE 3282
12th PRIZE	PHILIPS VACUUM CLEANER 9227
13th PRIZE	PHILIPS DOUBLE CASSETTE RECORDER 36073
14th PRIZE	PHILIPS STEAM IRON 32161
15th PRIZE	PHILIPS JUICER 18935

KONICA CAMERA EFP-3

2940	42701	8340	18953	11973
29062	13108	46334	47543	4708
49566	33616	1932	10293	14890
39225	30422	46081	26906	6950
8685	10880	9929	25826	15142
36228	7151	4416	24527	4270
33362	922	32379	32760	4618
8386	14035	24749	42138	43681
28234	22019	48125	35306	33026
24256	15292	11608	24767	48577

WINNERS TO CONTACT TEL: 2420399-2420415-2423826-2423927

VACANCIES

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Nouri opens 42nd Scouts Camp

THE Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri yesterday opened the 42nd Scouts Camp at its new location in Kabad area. The function was attended by the Education Ministry Undersecretary,

Abdul Rahman Al Khudari, and senior officials.

Al Nouri told newsmen that the ministry will make the scout camp permanent and will supply

it with everything necessary.

The speakers at the inauguration praised late Ali Hassan Al Ali, the international commissioner and one of the first scout pioneers in Kuwait.



The scouts parading before the minister.

Oman and Sweden discuss technical cooperation

MUSCAT, Jan. 9. (Kuna): Oman's Minister of Environment and Water Resources, Sayyid Shahib Bin Taimoor Al-Said yesterday received the visiting Swedish Minister of Energy and Environment Bargaatta Dahl and discussed technical cooperation between the two countries.

According to the Omani news agency, the Omani Minister Al-Said who is also chairman of the Council for Conservation of the Environment and Water Resources held a meeting with the Swedish Minister and discussed with her joint cooperation aspects in the field of the conservation of environment and natural resources and the exchange of expertise between Oman and Sweden.

The Swedish minister expressed her appreciation and admiration of Oman's efforts in the field.

Sayyid Shahib stressed Oman's continuous endeavour to enhance its relations with the world countries for the interest of mankind.

Sayyid Shahib called upon world countries to adopt the

necessary measures not only to conserve the environment of a certain country but also to maintain a healthy and perfect world environment and better conditions for the generations to follow.

The meeting was attended by Undersecretary of Environment and Water Resources Bakhit Bin Said Al Shanfari, the Secretary-General of the Council for the Conservation of the Environment and Water Resources Salim Bin Ahmed Bin Khalaf Al Bur'umi and a number of senior ministry officials.

Energy

Attending from the Swedish side were the assistant foreign undersecretary, the secretary of environment and energy for international affairs and the Swedish Charge d'Affaires in Muscat.

The official session of talks was held today between Oman and Sweden at the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals.

The Omani side to the talks was headed by Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Said Bin Ahmed Al Shanfari, while

the Swedish side was led by Swedish Minister of Energy and Environment Bargaatta Dahl.

The talks covered aspects of cooperation between the Sultanate and Sweden in the field of energy. The two sides also discussed cooperation in the fields of gas and minerals and reviewed the petroleum issues in general.

The session was attended by the accompanying delegation of the Swedish minister. Representing the Omani side to the talks were Undersecretary of Petroleum and Minerals Salim Bin Mohammad Bin Shaban and a number of senior ministry officials.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah also received the Swedish minister and her delegation for talks on bilateral relations and other topics of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by head of the European department at the Foreign Ministry Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Nagar.

The Swedish Minister and her delegation arrived in Muscat yesterday on a two-day official visit.

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

Kuwait Players
Wait Until Dark, a play of Frederick Knott, will be staged at the end of March. Auditions for the two female and six male roles will be held on Jan 13. Wednesday. It will be directed by Mike Conden. To audition meet in reception area of SAS Hotel. For further details contact Tel: 5385663.

FILMS

British Council
Bedknobs Broomsticks, a film for younger viewers, will be shown at 6 pm on Jan 13 (Wednesday) and at 10.30 am on Jan 14, at the British Council in Mansouriyah. It is a film for all ages, featuring a full-filled world of fantasy: a hilarious soccer game where crocodiles, elephants and other animals kick up a storm; brass bands fly; nightgowns dance and witches brooms sweep away young and old alike. It lasts 97 minutes. Admission is free but reservations must be made. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

SOCIAL

Kontani Drama
The New G.O.A. presents Freddy J. D'Costa's play Kbat Pita Dev Dita on Jan 14 (3pm), Jan 15 (3pm) and Utt Goykara on Jan 17 (3pm). The troupe from Goa including Jacinto Yez will perform at the new Indian Arts Circle hall in Finatates. Transport available from City. For reservations contact the Raja Stores.

Ladies Tea Party
A saree fashion show will be held at the International Ladies Tea Party meeting on Jan 20, Wednesday, from 4.30 pm at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. For details call 5317390.

Sargam Music Show
Sargam, a local group, will hold a music show at Messilah Beach Hotel at 6.30 pm on Feb 3. A selection of popular Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi and English songs will be presented. Entertainment also includes fire dance, lava dance and a magic show. For details phone 3260455, 7am to 3pm.

Piano Concert
German pianist Wolfram Lorenzen will give a recital on Jan 19 (8pm) in the Grand Ballroom of the Kuwait Hilton. He will play works by Ravel, Schubert, Liszt and Chopin. For further details contact the hotel.

Dance
All Dances are invited to a second-hand sale from 10am on Jan 10.

KLT
Kuwait Little Theatre, Alnadi, are looking for pianists for a summer musical coming in March. For further details call 3982466.

Kuwait Cultural Centre
Dancers classes will be held at the Science Club from 9 am to 1 pm on Jan 21. A kite-making competition will also be held.

HOTELS

At the Ramada Al Salam
All-day dining at El Bandar Coffee Shop. Grilled specialties featured at the Grill Garden. Snacks and cocktails offered at the Lobby Lounge with live entertainment. Every Thursday night Le Mirage features barbecue with live music.

At the Continental
Gardenia offers food and beverage service on the Terrace. Daily dinner buffet and on Fridays, lunch buffet with charcoal grilling specialties. Darbar features daily lunch buffet and a la carte for dinner.

At the Sheraton
Dine in the Hunt Room with live music by the gypsy band. For lunch, Hunt Room offers a la carte. Italian cuisine featured for dinner in the Ricardo Restaurant.

At the Holiday Inn
Businessman's lunch buffet, featuring three main course dishes, salads and sweets buffet; tea/coffee, offered daily at Al Dana Restaurant.

At the Hilton
La Palma features Oriental, Continental and International cuisines as well as a large array of sweets and desserts for lunch and dinner buffet. Falaka on the 19th floor features a specialty menu for lunch and dinner.

At the Meridien
Jumbo shrimp promotion in La Brasserie, the Versailles and Oasis Restaurant. The promotion continues until January 14.

At Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiah features special lunch and dinner buffets. Open 24 hours.

All entries for the What's On Column can be telefaxed (22332) to Events Section, or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned entries will not be accepted.

GOING PLACES

Perseverance takes Carlos to top

By Jadranka Porter

MOST operas are based on stories of human drama with virtuous confronting evil forces and battles ending in a hero's downfall, or triumph. Accomplished opera singers portraying these heroes and heroines might in a sense be singing about their own fate. They live and work in a highly competitive world tightly controlled by a handful of imperious opera house directors.

The road to stardom is full of pitfalls which only few manage to sidestep.

"All you need is one mistake, a wrong word to a right person, and you can end up blacklisted," says Carlos Montane, one of the world's top tenors.

Montane, a professor of voice, was in Kuwait last week with a group of students from the Indiana University Music School. He coaches talented and enthusiastic students in music but eventually there is little he can do to prepare them for clawing their way up in a world where talent counts but vested interest if often known to reign.

"They reject you with a smile. Bad news travel fast. All of a sudden you find you are not in demand and people start asking, 'What's wrong with him,'" says Montane.

But in fact he has little reason to complain because once he was launched on a professional singers circuit he stayed up there and now, with his university post and a flourishing singing career, he is well beyond the point of being vulnerable. But he does remember well the



Carlos Montane: one of world's top tenors.

anguish he felt when someone attempted to smear his reputation.

What propelled Montane to ever higher reaches of professional achievement was his perseverance in seeking an opportunity and ability to recognise one when it came his way.

"If you look for it the opportunity will eventually come to you but you have to be ready for it," says Montane. He was, and more than once.

Montane started singing in his native Cuba. To please his parents he studied law in addition

to music. His resentment of the Castro regime made him leave Cuba for the US in 1961.

He first landed in Panama at Christmas time and sang carols on the radio to earn his living. Ten days later he was in Miami with a pregnant wife, who followed him from Cuba, without any money or job, but with lot of hopes.

He did odd jobs in Miami which in those days was more of a village than a town.

He later moved to Massachusetts where he began studying music again. His big break came in 1963 when Montane won a Metropolitan Opera audition. This entitled him to a scholarship at New England Conservatory in Boston where he studied until 1969. His first professional engagement was with the New York City Opera, one of the best in the US. In 1973 Montane achieved what all aspiring singers dream of — he joined the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

He reached the peak of his career but "it is at times like this that you have to be smarter than others because you have 10,000 singers, some of them better than you, waiting for you to fall," says Montane. Judging by his record Montane gave no opportunity to singers waiting in the wings to step into his shoes.

Since those heady days Montane sang in just about every reputable opera house throughout the world, but mainly in Europe.

A good singer is a composition of different traits, says Montane. You need a talent and if you have it you have to become aware of it. "I am sure that there are thousands of

talented people out there but they don't know they have a special gift," he says. A strong interest in music, discipline and dedication are indispensable qualities of a great singer.

But Montane did not tell the whole truth. For, somewhere in that amiable smiling face and a round figure there is a well of courage without which, with all his talent, Montane would have remained yet another aspiring singer with big dreams which never came true.

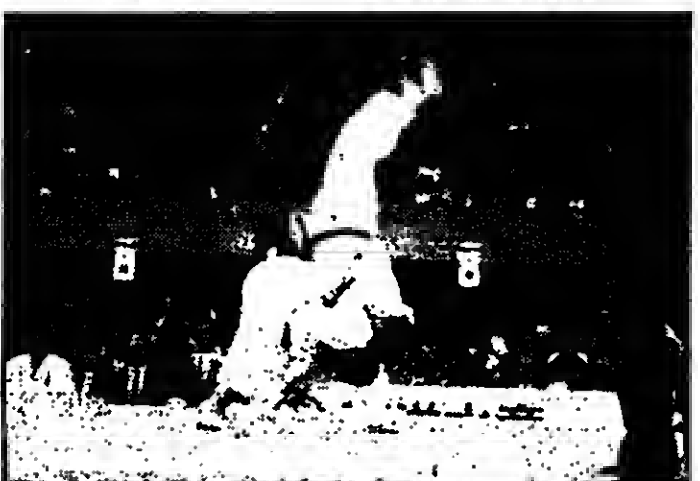
In 1986 he joined the Indiana University Music School, a prestigious institute which mounts seven full opera productions a year, has five symphony orchestras, six choirs and a ballet. It is the highest and one of the best music schools in the world. Now, at the age of 50, Montane can have at least another 10 years of singing engagements ahead of him plus a rewarding teaching post.

Looking back is an agreeable exercise for Montane who has to a great extent built up his career single-handedly. His career is speckled with rewarding experiences but among the most treasured memories is an encounter with a 12-year-old German boy who painted his portrait. "He walked into my dressing room after my performance in Mask Ball, showed me the portrait which depicted me with photographic precision and asked for an autograph. It was a moving experience," recalls Montane.

All the more so since Montane never forgot how important his education, many years ago, of famous singers was to his own rise in the world of opera.



Kite maker Eiji Ohashi pictured with some of his creations.



Judo champion Nakau will demonstrate martial arts.

Japan coming to Kuwait

THE Japanese Week kicks off later this month with a little bit of Oriental charm and a dash of technology. It will be held mainly at the Kuwait Hilton from Jan 21 to Jan 25, followed by a seminar on business on Feb 3.

The Hi-Tech Exhibition will show such new advances as the super high-speed transportation systems; paper thin speakers and a new fabric, dubbed chameleon cloth, which changes colour with change in body temperature.

Judo and kite-making demonstrations will also be held.

Traditional "top" making and kite flying "school" will be held at the Science Club from 9 am to 1 pm on Jan 21. A kite-

flying competition will be held at 12 noon. Eiji Ohashi, a kite maker, and Masaki Hiroi, a top maker, will demonstrate their art.

The Japanese will donate photo panels showing Japanese space technology and related video tapes to the Science Club.

World Judo Champion Tsuguhoro Nakau will give a demonstration of martial arts on Jan 24.

The art of flower arrangement, Ikebana, will be shown by the Grand Master from the Ikenobo School of Ikebana.

Cairo-based pianist Junko Nakayama will give a concert on Jan 23. Art works by Japanese children, including a special display of award-winning art work by Kuwaiti children from

the International Art Exhibition, will also be shown.

Seven Japanese films with Arabic subtitles will be shown from 4 to 7 pm from January 22 to 25. They are Snow Fairy, an animated film, The Makioka Sisters, The Dragon Boy, Sanjuri, an action film directed by Kurusawa, The Yamashita Story, focussing on Judo, the Longest Tunnel and Torasan's Forbidden Love, a comedy movie.

Seminar and discussions will be held on various aspects of Japanese life. A seminar on education will be held from 9 am to 1 pm on Jan 23. Another seminar on Japanese business will be held next month (Feb 3) at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In search of style



Tapati Ray

clothes but did not want to pay for them.

Tapati's job begins with the selection of the fabric. "Colour,

texture, weight, feel and how the fabric falls are all important considerations," she explains. In keeping with the

"mood of the season," she creates a "total look".

"Clothes are an extension of a woman's personality. They must look good, more importantly she must feel comfortable in them," she said.

Tapati blends the Oriental and Western design concepts while catering to her Indian sub-continent clientele. "Bright colours look attractive on Asian women; subtler shades suit light-skinned women," she says.

Her designs are comfortable and casual. For evening wear, she adds flashes of glitter for that glamorous look.

Tapati has sketched her collection of salwar-kameez ensembles. Based on those designs, she will create clothes for the woman of today.

There is a market for designer clothes in Kuwait. "No one has yet tapped the potential," she says.

She criticises women who buy "designer clothes from the West." "Many women wear clothes that just don't suit them. A design may look good on Western women but it looks awkward on Oriental or Asian women," she says.

Tapati is well-prepared for the risks involved in the volatile designing world. "This is risky business, but no matter what happens, women will always buy lots of clothes," she says as she anticipates to make clothes for women "who want to look better."

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News via Satellite
3.30 Hakim Al Aqzam: cartoons
4.00 News Summary
4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
4.25 La Ilaha Illallah: daily historical serial; featuring Yusuf Shahan, Raghdah, Hala Fakher
5.30 Al Manahil: series for children, featuring Amal Dahhas, Tayseer Attiya, Rabe'a Shihab
6.00 Songs and Music
7.00 News Summary
7.05 Soora Min Al Tab-hiya: documentary
7.30 Diwanat Shuara Al Nah: poetry session
8.15 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Al Anzar: daily serial
10.50 Sahrah Ma'al Angham: "A Melody Night," Presented by Amina Sharrar and featuring singers Abdullah Al Ruwashed, Nawal, Abdullah Al Shabman, Al Unood and the Jawharat Troupe.
11.50 News Summary
11.55 World News via



Anastasia's story continues in part two, tonight at 10.30 pm on KTV 2

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Lone Ranger: cartoons
6.30 Butterfly Island: "Rescue on the River," Sally returns with a friend to the island.
7.00 Understanding Islam: a weekly local show on Islam.
7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: "Master," a light hearted look at the sporting events.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Hot Shots:

"Warriors," Amanda Reed (Dorothy Parke) and Jason West (Booth Savage) pursue two brothers engaged in family warfare.

9.30 Fairy Square: "Hey, Landlord," Alex, a public prosecutor, buys a sofa that is too big for her tiny flat.

10.00 Q.E.D.: "The Foolish Wise Ones," Efforts to rehabilitate mentally retarded children.

10.30 Best-Seller: "Anastasia," Is Anna Anderson really Grand Duchess Anastasia? The woman who claims to be Anastasia is dismissed as an impostor by the surviving members of the Romanov family. In 1939, Anna goes to court. The lengthy legal battle which ended in 1970 was inconclusive. Amy Irving plays Anastasia.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsworld
30 Musical Masters of the Baroque
0100 News Summary followed by Play of the Week 3rd Uncle Vanya. Comedy: 10th Daisy Puffs II Off; 17th Chicken Soup with Barley — Part 1; 24th Chicken Soup with Barley — Part 2; 31st The Enemy Within
0200 World News
09 The Sunday Papers
15 I've Been Together Now For 70 Years
30 Allnews Time
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Back to Square One
0400 Newsdesk
30 A Mozart Miscellany
45 Reflections
50 Financial Review
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hour: News Summary

30 Stuart Colman's Record Hop
45 Letter from America
0600 Newsdesk
30 Jazz for the Asking
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hour: News Summary
30 From Our Own Correspondent
50 Waveguide
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 The Pleasure of Yous
0900 World News
09 The Sunday Papers
15 Science in Action
45 Australia Bound (ex 31st Hobbies)
1000 News Summary followed by Short Story
30 Religious Service
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Musical Masters of the Baroque (ex 3rd Play of the Week: Uncle Vanya)
1200 News Summary (ex 3rd) followed by Play of the Week: 3rd Uncle Vanya. Comedy: 10th Daisy Puffs II Off; 17th Chicken Soup with Barley — Part 1; 24th Chicken Soup with Barley — Part 2; 31st The Enemy Within.

1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hour: News Summary
30 Sports Roundup
45 The Sandi Jones Request Show (including at 1400 News Summary)
1430 Back to Square One
1500 Radio Newsworld
15 Concert Hall
1600 World News
09 Commentary
15 3rd Fundamentalist America: 10th Housing the World; 17th Byron; 24th Rescuing the Rhine; 31st Not In Our Stars
45 Letter from America
1700 World News
09 Reflections
15 Jazz for the Asking
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newsdesk
30 Just A Minute (ex 3rd and 10th My Music)
1900 News Summary followed by Classical Record Review
15 Feature

English

Morning
08.00 Opening
08.02 Songs and Music
08.30 News
08.40 Songs and Music
08.45 Daily Programme
09.00 Bands with a Beat
09.30 Songs and Music
10.00 Our Press Today
10.05 Songs and Music
10.30 Pick of the Pops
11.00 Closedown
13.30 News on the FM service
Evening
21.00 Opening
21.02 The Young Sound
21.30 News
21.45 Point of View
21.55 Songs and Music
22.00 The World of Sports
22.15 In the French mood
22.45 Daily Programme
23.00 Pop Session Special
24.00 Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Jahra Pharmacy
Fahad Al Saleem St.
Muntasar Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Kindi Pharmacy
nr. Asian Olympic Council Bldg. Jahriya

SALMIYA

Al Andalus
Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
Al Salmiya
Out of Bounds
Starring: Anthony Michel-Hull, Jenny Wright, Jeff Cooper
Al Hamra
Cry Onion
Starring: Franco Nero
Drive-In
Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
Al Firdous
Satte pe Satta (Hindi)
Starring: Hema Malini, Amitabh Bachchan
Fahadheel Open-Air
Prem Rog (Hindi)
Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Padmini Kolhapure
Al Fahadheel
Ajantha (Malayalam)
Al Jahra
Rahee (Hindi)
Starring: Sanjeev Kumar, Smrita Paul
Granada
Tarana (Hindi)
Sufabikhat
Battle Truck
Al Jeeb
Sreedharante Onnattiru Mirum (Malayalam)
Ahmad Drive-In
Ruthless People

PRAYERS

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Zuhr 11.56
Asr 2.49 pm
Maghreb 5.07
Isha 6.29

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

OUR civilisation is still in a middle stage... no longer wholly guided by instinct, not yet wholly guided by reason — *Theodore Dreiser, novelist (1871-1945).*

India building a blue-water fleet

By Robert Mahoney

NEW DELHI. (Reuters): India's ambitions to become a regional superpower were buoyed this week by the acquisition of a Soviet nuclear submarine which will further push the influence of its rapidly expanding Navy to the more than 30 countries around the Indian Ocean.

Indian and foreign military analysts said the handover of the nuclear-powered boat in the Soviet far eastern port of Vladivostok on Tuesday marked a major step in India's efforts to build a world-class, blue-water fleet capable of projecting New Delhi's military and political power.

"The deterrent effect of a nuclear submarine is colossal," Admiral A.K. Chatterjee, a former Navy chief, said.

"The United States would think twice about intervention if we were nuclear," he said.

Awakening

Chatterjee, a leading architect of Indian naval strategy after independence in 1947, was referring to the shudder the US Navy sent through India's defence and political establishment in 1971.

That year a US task force under the carrier Enterprise brushed past the Indian Navy in the Bay of Bengal to observe Bangladesh's Indian-aided war of independence from Pakistan.

"Since then we have been building up the Navy," said Chatterjee, whose 1982 book on the need for nuclear submarines is credited with influencing official thinking.

Leading foreign defence analysts viewed the arrival of nuclear submarines as a logical progression in the development of the Indian Navy which already has Soviet-built diesel-powered boats.

"This is not going to unduly alarm the West but we have to be alert to it and strategists will have to factor it in," one analyst, who declined to be identified, said.

"This is a prestige thing," said another analyst. "It is very important for the Indians to feel that they are being taken seriously as a regional power."

"A few nuclear subs is not going to make the Indian Navy a match for the big league players but they will have an effect," said one expert.

India will become the second Asian nation after China with nuclear-powered warships.

The United States has a military presence in the strategically important Indian

Ocean at Diego Garcia island south of India. The island, leased from Britain in the 1960s, is primarily an air base but could support a carrier battle group.

The US moved into the Indian Ocean after Britain withdrew "east of Suez" in 1971. Strategists regard it as Moscow's soft underbelly because of the nearness of the Soviet land mass for submarine launched missiles.

Access

Washington has access to nuclear support facilities in the ocean littoral in Australia, Oman and the Seychelles.

The Soviet fleet has access to bases in South Yemen and Ethiopia. India does not allow ships from either superpower to use its ports.

India's agreement with Moscow is for the lease not sale of at least one submarine.

Neither the Indian nor Soviet governments have given many details of the deal but naval experts expect India to take at least three, probably four, boats.

They said they expected the boat was a 1970s-vintage Victor class craft.

An Indian spokesman declined to identify the craft. State television said the submarine was for "training" purposes and carried no nuclear weapons.

India has transformed its fleet from a brown water coastal patrol force to blue-water force since its first submarine, a Soviet Foxtrot-class, diesel-powered craft arrived here 20 years ago.

It now has eight Foxtrots and two advanced West German HDW Type 209 diesel boats. It plans to build two more Type 209s from kits near Bombay.

Decision

The 47,000-strong Navy also has two former British carriers with Sea Harrier attack planes, three modern destroyers and more than 20 frigates, according to Western estimates.

Pakistan, India's traditional enemy has 11 conventionally-powered submarines and eight US and British built destroyers at its only major port, Karachi.

The possibility of a fourth war with Pakistan often influences the type of defence equipment India buys, military experts said. But with nuclear submarines New Delhi is looking further afield, said one, alluding to American naval strategist Alfred Mahan.

He wrote in 1911: "Whoever controls the Indian Ocean dominates Asia... In the 21st century the destiny of the world will be decided on its waters."

Joining hands for a better life

By Pascal Fletcher

DJIBOUTI. (Reuters): Six East African nations battling a recurrent drought and famine, a hostile natural environment and political instability have joined forces to achieve a common goal — a better life for their people.

"We cannot continue just receiving outside relief aid, we have to push ahead with our own development," said Makonnen Kebret, executive secretary of the Inter-governmental Authority of Drought and Development (Igadd).

Igadd was launched two years ago by Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda with the goal of regional cooperation to foster long-term development.

"That is our mandate — development," Makonnen said at the organisation's headquarters in the Red Sea state of Djibouti.

Makonnen said a main objective of Igadd was to combat the region's principal natural scourge — drought.

After successive droughts, some countries in the area could face another disastrous famine this year.

Perennial

"Drought is a permanent problem," Makonnen added. "Its multiple side-effects include famine, desertification and disease."

Eighty per cent of the more than five million square km (1.9 million square miles) covered by the six Igadd nations is designated as arid or semi-arid, and drought prone.

The drought of 1984 killed tens

of thousands in Ethiopia and prompted a massive international relief operation.

Living standards of the region's population of 100 million are among the lowest in the world. In none of the six nations does gross national product (GNP) per capita exceed \$400 a year. Life expectancy ranges from 44 years in Somalia to 52 in Kenya.

Priority

Igadd has identified several priority areas of action to fight the effects of drought and promote development.

These include information and early warning systems, food security, the development of crop and livestock production, fisheries, water and energy resources, infrastructure, desertification control and manpower training.

Igadd, which is funded by member states and foreign aid, held its first meeting with international donors in March 1987. Makonnen said the majority of the more than 60 projects presented for financing attracted interest.

"We don't expect to be a victim of aid fatigue. We have submitted viable projects and we have the support of the international community," Makonnen said. He hoped the first internationally-funded projects would be under way in mid-1988.

Self-sufficiency in food was a priority. "Today, the region does not feed itself but it has the potential to do so," Makonnen said, noting that all but one of the Igadd member states, Djibouti, were potential surplus producers of food.

Political deadlock over Iran arms embargo

Soviet proposal meets with cool response

By Stephen Jukes

BAHRAIN. (Reuters): A Soviet proposal for a joint UN naval force to protect Gulf shipping met with a cool response in the West, but may offer the only way out of political deadlock over an Iran arms embargo, regional diplomats said.

Western nations are unlikely to go along with Moscow's demand to submit their warships in the Gulf to a UN command. But a small force to patrol the entrance to the Gulf in the Strait of Hormuz and to enforce an embargo against Tehran may be an acceptable compromise.

Difficulties

"If the West and Moscow make the effort, a small force could be workable," said one Western diplomat.

"It might not be 100 per cent effective but at least it would break the impasse at the UN and revive peace efforts."

By Allison Smaile

VIENNA. Austria. (AP): Twenty years ago, Alexander Dubcek became head of Czechoslovakia's ruling Communist Party, plunging into an exhilarating 'Prague Spring' of political debate and reform quashed just eight months later by Soviet-led troops.

Ironically, the Soviet Union now is embroiled in reform while the cautious Czechoslovak party mulls change under Milos Jakes, named last month to succeed President Gustav Husak as party leader.

According to Zdenek Mlynar, one of the leaders of the 'Prague Spring' now exiled in Austria, Jakes and Dubcek were roommates when both studied in Moscow in the 1950s.

Like Dubcek, who took over the party from the orthodox Antonin Novotny while Novotny remained president, Jakes succeeded a conservative, Husak, who also retains the presidency.

But the uncharismatic, 65-year-old Jakes seems an unlikely candidate to emulate Dubcek in pushing vigorously for political and economic change.

Chosen under Dubcek to head the Communist Party's chief control body, Jakes retained this position after the Warsaw Pact invasion of August 1968 and oversaw the purge of almost half a million pro-Dubcek party members in the 1970s.

Ideas

Dubcek, now an official non-person living quietly in his native Slovakia, was relatively unknown in Prague when, aged 46, he was named Communist Party leader on Jan. 5, 1968.

His radical ideas soon made his boyish looks familiar at home and abroad.

Dubcek succeeded Novotny after bitter internal struggles that prompted Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev to visit Prague in December 1967.

Battling to return power, Novotny even tried to mobilise the Army into thwarting the January 1968 reshuffle.

Intellectuals, particularly the Czechoslovak Writers' Union, had been harassed and suppressed in the preceding months. Prague students unhappy with living conditions staged street protests the previous October.

A few weeks into Dubcek's rule, change was already marked.

The Writers' Union elected new, liberal leaders and published a new journal whose first issue in February 1968 carried a call for free elections, an active

Western nations have three main objections to a large force patrolling the length of the Gulf.

● Strategic: a UN force would allow Moscow to increase its foothold in the Gulf after a series of diplomatic setbacks.

● Military: NATO naval commanders are said to be concerned about working bow to bow with the Soviet Navy which could examine at close quarters latest technology and weapons.

Cool

● Practical: co-ordination among NATO navies and standardisation of communications equipment has made great advances. But liaison with Soviet ships could prove difficult.

The UN Security Council's unanimous resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, passed on July 20 last year, has become bogged after Tehran's refusal to comply.

And the council's five permanent members, the United States,

Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China, have been unable to agree on an arms embargo to back the original peace demand.

Moscow has recently indicated it would be willing to drop its objections to sanctions — urged by Washington and London — if a UN force was set up. But diplomats say that would mean Western navies surrendering independent control of their warships now plying the Gulf.

US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, on his first tour of the region since taking over the top Pentagon job two months ago, showed little enthusiasm for the idea in Kuwait on Tuesday. But he did not shut the door completely, diplomats said.

He told newsmen Washington was prepared to discuss it and listen to constructive ideas but added the concept was "vague".

The United States has 17 warships assigned to its Middle East

task force protecting 11 US-flag Kuwaiti oil tankers. Another 16 American warships are on standby.

Britain's Armilla Patrol has two warships in the Gulf and one on standby, while France and the Soviet Union have also been escorting vessels flying their own flags.

Advantage

Diplomats said Washington would be reluctant to cede a strategic advantage to Moscow which has so far failed to win port facilities in the Gulf.

One of the main reasons the US agreed to step up its naval presence last July was to counter a diplomatic offensive by Moscow which had secured far closer relations with Gulf states.

But Soviet overtures to Iran late last year undid much of that progress and official media in the Gulf have turned increasingly hostile, accusing Moscow of playing a double game.

A UN force, with a degree of international anonymity, would have the advantage of reducing political concern building in Britain and the United States that navies could get sucked into an open conflict with Iran, diplomats said.

December's tally of 35 attacks on shipping by Iran and Iraq was the highest since the tanker war began in 1984. British and American warships have become increasingly active on the fringes of attacks, plucking crewmen by helicopter from blazing ships and shielding foreign tankers from Iranian raids.

Manageable

Diplomats and Western military sources said a possible outcome of UN negotiations would be a small task force of five or six vessels to enforce an embargo and check all ships entering the Strait of Hormuz for Iran-bound weapons.

Such a force would be manageable. But to be successful, the operation would have to secure the political agreement of Oman — which polices shipping traffic in the channel.

Gulf-based shipping sources estimate that no more than about 15 cargo vessels and tankers enter the strait each day. These could be contacted by radio and ordered to report to a duty UN picket ship which would inspect cargoes.

A force would have to intercept merchant vessels bound for Iran's two major ports of Bandar Abbas in the strait and Bushair in the northern Gulf.

But Iran also has a port well outside the Gulf at Chah Bahar near the Pakistani border and that would be far more difficult to police.

A UN force would be a demonstration of political unity against Tehran but could never stop all weapons getting through," said one diplomat.

at home and make socialism more appealing abroad.

Unlike Dubcek, however, Gorbachev has been careful always to tie political change to the need for economic reform.

He attacked economic inefficiency, stagnation and corruption before outlining his programme for political change, portraying the latter as a corollary of changes needed to keep the Soviet economy strong.

This helps Gorbachev to keep much firmer control of political debate than Dubcek did in Czechoslovakia, where questioning of orthodox communism went so far that the alarmed Soviets sent in Warsaw Pact troops and tanks in August 1968 to restore Kremlin-style order.

Banished

Dubcek was allowed to remain party leader until April 1969, when Husak took over. After a brief spell as ambassador to Turkey, Dubcek was given an obscure forestry administration job in the Slovak capital of Bratislava.

Jakes now faces the problematic legacy of Dubcek's reforms and the invasion that crushed them, bringing political stability but economic and intellectual stagnation.

Gorbachev's reforms and the need to boost the economy have prompted Husak, Jakes and other Prague officials to adopt the rhetoric of change, warning of the danger of stagnation.

Czechoslovakia will look to a Communist Party central committee meeting due this month to see whether more radical changes can be expected from Jakes 20 years after Dubcek inaugurated what a Prague resident recently called that "one excellent spring."

meeting, their productions scheduled."

Romanian police counterattacked. Rumanian exiles say hundreds were arrested and Brasov now resembles a city under siege. Troops patrol the main streets.

But the protests reportedly won't end. In one well-documented instance, the exiles say students in Timisoara and Arad revolted last month in support of the Brasov workers.

Signs of dissent are even emerging within the leadership. After the Brasov riots, four local party chiefs were ousted from the party because of their criticism, says Mihnea Berindei, head of the Rumanian Human Rights League.

In a display of defiance, Romania's former ambassador to the United States, Silviu Brucan, publicly compared Romania to Poland in 1980, the year Solidarity exploded.

The National Conference was postponed for one week.

Most observers say that, for now, Ceausescu probably can ride out the problems, largely thanks to the feared Securitate (secret police). Telephones are bugged, mail opened, and even typewriters must be registered.

"The fear is so great," says Berindei, "it takes six weeks to hear reports of strikes, weeks to hear when someone is arrested."

Opposition in Romania remains weak and disorganised. Compared with Poland's strong, independent Roman Catholic church, Romania's Orthodox church passively evades confrontation. And Romania remains a peasant culture with no tradition of political participation.

The Christian Science Monitor.

The Prague Spring was crushed 20 years ago

A brief encounter with reforms



Czechs jeer an invading Soviet tank in Prague, (inset) Dubcek. (Reuters wirephoto)

opposition in Parliament and a neutral foreign policy.

Young technocrats went all out to implement decentralising economic reforms stalled by Novotny and his supporters.

Dubcek strongly endorsed change in his first major speech as leader at the February 1968 celebrations of 20 years of communism in Czechoslovakia.

Similar

As Brezhnev and other East bloc leaders looked on, Dubcek declared that political change was the most important reform needed.

"The sphere where we must make a start today is politics, the political sphere," he said.

This strong emphasis on political change marks Dubcek's reforms out from the policies advocated today in the Kremlin by Mikhail Gorbachev.

Like Dubcek, Gorbachev talks frequently about the democratisation of the Communist Party, politics and

society. The debate about how the Communist Party should exercise its political power is

strikingly similar in Dubcek's Prague, Gorbachev's Moscow or today's Budapest.

By William Echikson

PARIS: Nicolae Ceausescu is a stubborn man.

The Romanian leader, isolated internationally, faced with a deteriorating economy, challenged by worker and student riots, insisted at a recent conference that little would change. Aside from giving workers a wage hike he said he would continue to pursue old-style Stalinist central-planning policies.

The message would seem an embarrassment to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who wants his allies to reform, and the Reagan administration, which long has courted Ceausescu.

Worst off are the Romanians themselves. According to exiles

here in Paris, thermostats here are set at 44 degrees F. and only 40-watt light bulbs are available. Workers wear coats, hats, and gloves in their offices. Butchers have only enough meat to open their shops one or two days a week. In some regions potatoes and bread are rationed.

"At least it's hot in Africa. In Romania people are starving and it's cold," says exiled Romanian writer Paul Goma. Long-suffering Romanians are fed up.

Revolt

In November last year up to 20,000 demonstrators rampaged in the industrial city of Brasov. According to independent reports, workers at the Red Flag Truck and Tractor Co. in Brasov revolted after being told their pay would be retroactively cut for not

meeting, their productions scheduled."

Romanian police counterattacked. Rumanian exiles say hundreds were arrested and Brasov now resembles a city under siege. Troops patrol the main streets.

But the protests reportedly won't end. In one well-documented instance, the exiles say students in Timisoara and Arad revolted last month in support of the Brasov workers.

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In a display of defiance, Romania's former ambassador to the United States, Silviu Brucan, publicly compared Romania to Poland in 1980, the year Solidarity exploded.

The National Conference was postponed for one week.

officially to allow "better preparation." Unofficially, it was to make sure no outbursts marred the meeting. And Brucan complied with an order to retract his statement. By the time the 3,000 delegates met, Ceausescu was a warm applause.

Fear

Most observers say that, for now, Ceausescu probably can ride out the problems, largely thanks to the feared Securitate (secret police). Telephones are bugged, mail opened, and even typewriters must be registered.

"The fear is so great," says Berindei, "it takes six weeks to hear reports of strikes, weeks to hear when someone is arrested."

Opposition in Romania remains weak and disorganised. Compared with Poland's strong, independent Roman Catholic church, Romania's Orthodox church passively evades confrontation. And Romania remains a peasant culture with no tradition of political participation.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Selling stolen Thai children is good business

By Salinya Sukwong

BANGKOK. (Reuters): A 69-year-old woman dropped a baby into a pond from a second-floor window in a southern Thai town last month, trying to hide the evidence of a child-smuggling ring as police arrived to arrest her.

The gruesome act focused attention on a growing and lucrative trade by Thai and Malaysian smugglers who sell stolen Thai children in Malaysia.

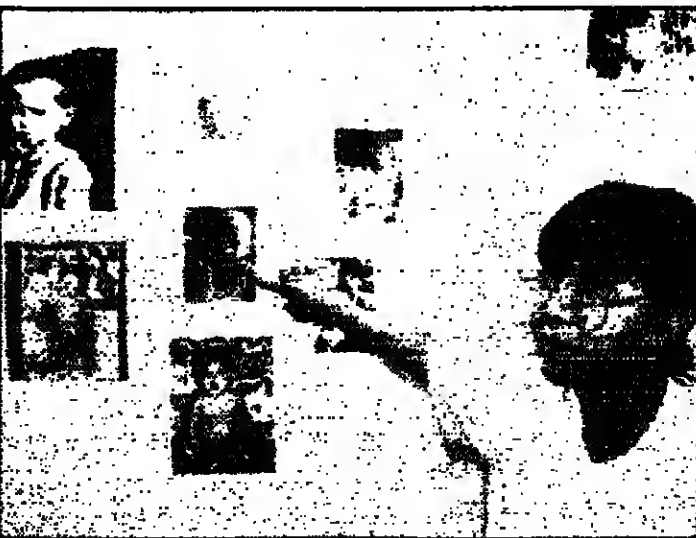
The Bangkok-based Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights says more than 6,000 children have been abducted in Thailand and sold in Malaysia during the past seven years.

Centre co-ordinator Supasit Koompraphan said in an interview that about five well-organised gangs with up to 10 members each were operating in southern Thailand near the Malaysian border.

Infants

Supasit said most of the babies were sold to Malaysian couples who wanted large families or to rubber planters who raised the children to work on plantations.

Although some older children were abducted and sold to work on plantations, most of the



An official of Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights points at photographs of missing children at her office in Bangkok. (Reuters wirephoto)

smuggled children were aged five months to two years.

They were sold to agents at the border for about \$200 each and resold for up to \$2,400 to foster parents in Malaysia.

"Good-looking babies with pale complexions fetch the highest prices," Supasit said.

He said cases compiled by the centre and police showed that the typical kidnapper was a "kind and gentle grandmother figure,"

who approached mothers with offers to baby-sit or take their babies on outings.

After gaining the trust of the mothers the abductors would disappear with the children.

Some gang members, posing as people with humanitarian intentions, persuaded public hospitals and orphanages to allow them to legally adopt children who were later sold off in Malaysia.

Others persuaded unwed mothers and prostitutes to give up their children, saying they could be raised in better homes.

Thiraporn Weerawat, a lawyer for the children's centre, said childless Malaysian couples ready to buy a child might not realise the babies were stolen.

"They think they are doing good, since the agents they deal with tell them they are saving the children from extreme poverty," Thiraporn said.

Difficult

He said Thai authorities set up a special unit to track down the child-smuggling gangs three months ago after a 72-year-old Thai woman was arrested with a 13-month-old stolen baby.

She admitted having already sold four stolen babies for \$200 each to agents in southern Thailand.

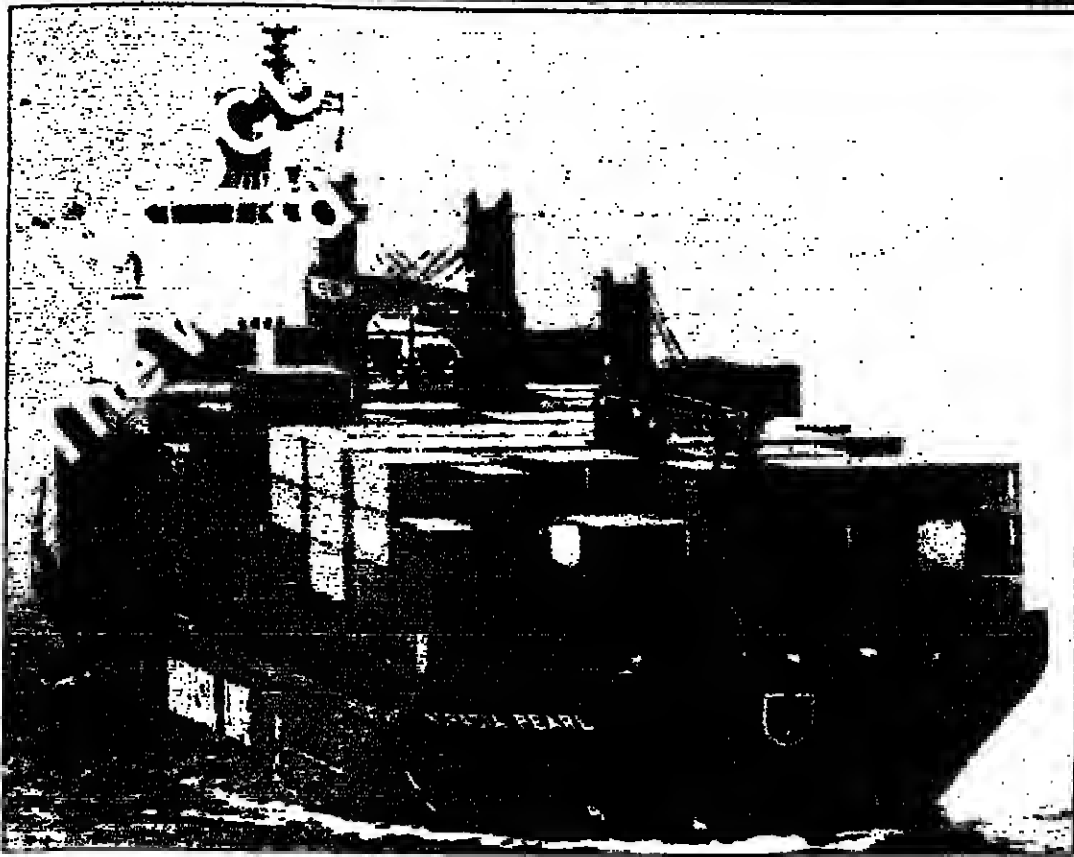
Most of the children reported missing are never found.

The centre said tracing the children was difficult as there was little cooperation between Thai and Malaysian police.

Thailand and Malaysia do not have a legal agreement governing the extradition of criminals. Child-abductors often have dual Malaysian-Thai nationalities and are often not questioned when crossing the border, the centre said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1663 — Britain's King Charles II grants charter to royal African colony.
- 1815 — British declare war against king of Kandy in Ceylon.
- 1889 — France establishes protectorate over Ivory Coast.
- 1900 — Frederick Roberts lands in South Africa as commander-in-chief of British Army.
- 1906 — Britain and France open military and naval talks.
- 1919 — British Army takes over administration of Baghdad Railway.
- 1920 — League of Nations comes into being.
- 1923 — Meml. Lithuania, under allied occupation, is seized by Lithuania.
- 1928 — Leon Trotsky, one of chief architects of Soviet Union, is ordered into exile by Soviet government.
- 1936 — Japanese troops enter Tientsin, China.
- 1942 — Japanese invade Dutch East Indies in World War II.
- 1955 — Federal Council of Nigeria meets for first time.
- 1959 — Soviet Union proposes conference to draft German peace treaty.
- 1962 — Ceylon's prime minister arrives in Peking on mission of conciliation.
- 1969 — Sweden becomes first Western European country to announce it will establish full diplomatic relations with North Vietnam.
- 1977 — Two Soviet cosmonauts rocket into space to join crew of orbiting Salyut research station.
- 1987 — Libya says it has accepted Algerian proposal



THE West German container ship "Norasia Pearl" steams towards the United Arab Emirates port of Jebel Ali in the southern Gulf yesterday after being released by Iran on Friday which detained it in the southern Iranian port of Bandar Abbas for 12 days. (Reuter wirephoto)



BRITISH Foreign Minister Geoffrey Howe goes toward a Japanese domestic airliner for Oita, Kyushu, in western Japan at Tokyo's Haneda International Airport after arriving at the New Tokyo International Airport in Narita yesterday. Howe is on a five-day visit to Japan where he will attend an annual ministerial meeting between Japan and Britain. (Reuter wirephoto)



TWO competitors of the World downhill skiing, are looking at a chairlift which crashed into a chairlift pylon. The driver was killed and three passengers in the chairlift were seriously injured in the accident in Val d'Isere, France. (Reuter wirephoto)



ALAIN POHER (left), president of the French Senate, accompanies East German head of state Erich Honecker as they enter the Senate on Friday. Honecker is in France for a three-day state visit where he meets President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and visits tourist sites in Paris. (Reuter wirephoto)



A SNOWY scene on New York's 42nd Street on Friday as a heavy winter storm blasts the East Coast with up to a foot of snow. (Reuter wirephoto)



PHILIPPINE Vice-President Salvador Laurel says in a news conference on Saturday that the January 18 elections should be postponed in Quezon province, 60 miles south of Manila, after suspected communist guerrillas abducted his party's candidates for governor and vice-governor. Beside Laurel are the wives of the kidnapped candidates. (Reuter wirephoto)



REPUBLICAN presidential candidate Jack Kemp (left) reaches to shake hands with fellow candidate Peter du Pont (right) prior to the Iowa Presidential Debates on Friday. From left, are: Kemp, Alexander Haig, Vice President George Bush, Senator Robert Dole, evangelist Pat Robertson and Du Pont. (Reuter wirephoto)



US DEFENCE ADVISER Robert Barker (left) shakes hands with Soviet General Serguei Zelinotsov (centre) as he arrives at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on Friday night with some 20 US experts for a visit on ways of verifying a nuclear test ban. At right is Igor Palenikh, head of a Soviet delegation which is due to pay a reciprocal visit to the US by the end of the month. (Reuter wirephoto)



US Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci is greeted by military officials on his arrival in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. On his right is Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz. (Reuter wirephoto)



US DEFENCE SECRETARY Frank Carlucci officiates at the re-enlistment of Ari Amaya (left) and Jeffrey Hammond (centre) during a visit to the Gulf on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)



DAN BATTISTEL stocks up on fresh water with the help of daughter Erika (centre) and her friend Josi Blair, in anticipation of Steubenville, Ohio, running out of water. The city's water problems are the result of a massive diesel fuel spill in the Monongahela River near Pittsburgh January 2. (Reuter wirephoto)



A SKIER jumps from a cloud of artificial snow at Canada's Olympic Park in Calgary on Friday. Organisers of the XV Winter Olympics are stockpiling artificial snow in preparation for the February games. (Reuter wirephoto)



FRANCE'S controversial National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, who recently declared his candidacy for the presidency, presented his "new look" with a changed hairstyle and 10 kilos lighter, as he takes a winter swim in Nice where he is presiding over the National Front convention. (Reuter wirephoto)

Former Charlie's Angel shakes off dolly-bird image

Fawcett shines as rich heiress

By Ivor Davis

BY the time Farrah Fawcett finished portraying Poor Little Rich Girl Barbara Hutton, the flamboyant Woolworth heiress who went through millions of dollars and seven husbands, the former Charlie's Angel said, "I felt great sympathy for her."

For the \$15 million, five-hour miniseries Fawcett wore fashions of the '30s, '40s and '50s and millions of dollars worth of jewellery. "Although I felt sorry for the lady," she says, "it was hard to relate to her — she had it all, but she made a mess of her life. She had a sense of humour, she liked to have fun and she gave away millions, but she was emotionally scarred as a child and she could never shake that off."

The Hutton portrayal is the most glamorous role Fawcett has played since she left the TV series Charlie's Angels (1976-81). The actress had deliberately avoided glitzy roles, preferring to star in realistic films that are far removed from her razzle-dazzle image of the '70s.

She broke the Charlie's Angels mold by starring in The Burning Bed (1984) as a battered wife who sets her husband on fire after living with his beating and humiliations for years. It brought her rave reviews and an Emmy nomination.

Fawcett starred on Broadway in Extremities (1983), then in the movie version in 1985, playing a vengeful woman who turns the tables on the man who rapes her.

Fawcett again earned the respect of critics when she starred in the Nazi Hunter: The Beate Klarsfeld Story (1986), tackling a tough European accent and a dramatic role as the internationally known housewife turned Nazi hunter who helped track down war criminal Klaus Barbie, the Butcher of Lyons.

For Poor Little Rich Girl: The Barbara Hutton Story, Fawcett tries to bring to life the famed heiress whose extravagant lifestyle shocked and intrigued a nation. The drama, based on C. David Heymann's best-selling biography of the same title, traces the



Farrah Fawcett plays the Woolworth heiress who went through millions of dollars and seven husbands. (inset) the real Barbara Hutton and (right) a scene from the film.

life of Hutton, heiress to the Woolworth fortune who, during the Great Depression, inherited an estimated \$50 million. In a glare of publicity she jet-setted around the world and married seven men, including Cary Grant. However, she died in 1979 at the age of 64 in the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in California with \$3,500 in her bank account.

"She had an interesting life," says Fawcett, "not just glamour and money, but intrigue. She was born into a lot of money and had what would appear on the surface anything and everything she wanted, but she wasn't fulfilled. The challenge for me in taking the role was to find out what made

this woman tick."

After reading Heymann's book Fawcett scoured through newspaper and magazine clippings and read Hutton's poetry and letters. But, she says, "I still didn't feel I knew the woman."

The key to empathy came when she realised that Farrah Fawcett, celebrity, had more in common with Barbara Hutton, heiress, than might at first be imagined.

"All I had to go on was newspaper clippings, the stuff that had been written about her during her lifetime. I realised what if somebody wrote about me and they pulled clippings from newspapers? Suddenly, I related to this woman and how she was misunderstood."

Fawcett, whose private life with actor Ryan O'Neal and their 3-year-old son Redmond is regular fodder for tabloids throughout the world, wanted to do justice to the life of another victim of celebritydom. She wanted, she says, to tell the truth.

Producer Lester Persky sent the project's screenwriter to Europe to talk with Hutton's friends and get a better picture of the real woman.

"When the final script was in I realised that the woman I had read about in the newspapers was nothing like the press and public's perception of her," says Fawcett. "This jet-setting partygoer was intelligent and the self-indulgent person was philanthropic and eccentric."

"The people who knew her had kind things to say about her and it made me understand how you could like this woman," she says.

Fawcett, however, had problems getting herself into a '30s and '40s mind-set, particularly when it came to money matters.

"Today's women," she says, "know where their money is and what they make. Hutton didn't have any of that knowledge or even the ability to take a stand and say, 'This is my money.' She went through a couple of husbands before she realised that she was allowed to voice an opinion."

Fawcett says she also tried to give Hutton a hard edge, because there were things about her life she found reprehensible.

"I wanted to give viewers a true picture of her living a life of excess," she says. "It's hard to like someone who could have so much and not be happy. That's something I couldn't relate to because it's different from how I feel. But there were reasons for it. Her mother committed suicide when she was a child — she found the body. That must have been emotionally destructive."

In her recent roles Fawcett seems to have specialised in being bruised and battered. She was left with black eyes and cut lips after filming "The Burning Bed" and "Extremities."

By Peter Rose

WHEN Ben, Hoss, Adam and Little Joe finally rode off into the Wild West sunset, it looked like the end for the good ol' Ponderosa.

But there comes a time when a TV producer's gotta do what a TV producer's gotta do. So saddle up, viewers, Bonanza's coming back.

Filming has already begun on Bonanza: The Next Generation, a two-hour TV special to be shown next year. And while none of the original cast will take part, the Cartwrights are keeping it in the family.

Playing the daughter of a Virginia City banker will be Gillian Greene. Her father Lorne who died in September, was Ben Cartwright. Appearing as the son of Little Joe will be... the real-life son of Little Joe, Michael Landon Junior.

The original, much-loved Bonanza topped the ratings around the world with 420

Bonanza dynasty



Then: Greene and Landon as Ben and Little Joe.



Now: Gillian Greene and Michael Landon Jr.

episodes made between 1959 and 1973. It captured countless

and Pernell Roberts. In the new film, John Ireland will take over as head of the Cartwright family, playing Ben's younger brother Aaron. Newcomer Brian A. Smith will be the son of Hoss. Dan Blocker, who played Hoss died in 1972.

Survival

The creator of the original series, David Dortort, is producing Bonanza: The Next Generation. Once again, it will be filmed at Lake Tahoe, California.

Mr Dortort said the story resumed in 1905 when "the tragic passing of Ben Cartwright has come at a time when the very survival of the Ponderosa is at stake."

He added: "We look forward to bringing the exploits of the Cartwright family back to television. It is our opinion that the characters speak to today's generation in their search for television heroes and role models."

Playing the perfect spy

By Marcel Berlins

IT MUST be difficult enough to portray a character in a John Le Carré novel without the added burden of knowing that the part is based on Le Carré's own emotional life history. But Le Carré has let it be known that A Perfect Spy with its central fathers-on-motif, is a cathartic work, drawing deeply on the traumatic relationship between the young David Cornwell (before his Le Carré identity) and his charming crooked rogue of a father.

Magnus Pym, the spy of the title is played by Peter Egan, who seems untroubled by the responsibility of portraying a living, albeit fictionalised, person.

"I didn't even think about that. Normally, if you're doing something totally based on fact, a total biography, you constantly refer to the person and to details about that person to see that you've got it absolutely accurately. In this instance it isn't necessary that it be accurate because A Perfect Spy is still fiction. So there wasn't that pressure, that rigidity about the role."

In the novel Pym comes over as a complex and subtle combination of used and user, betrayed and betrayer. He is a man who seeks and needs love, emotional comfort and approval, but rejects them all when they threaten to become too real. He knows only to be devious, dishonest and treacherous; yet he is a victim and self-destructive as much as an oppressor.

Human

"I think he's a very human character, and because he's human he's easy to identify with," Egan says. "I didn't find him at all unsympathetic. Maybe as an actor you tend to look at things as a psychiatrist. You look at why certain people behave in a certain way and you tend to find identifying links, and with them you find sympathies."

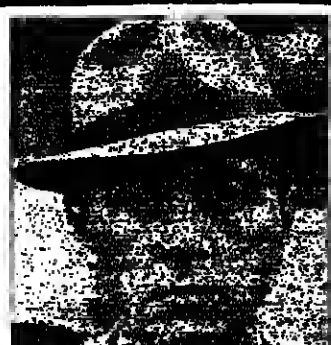
"I found in Pym a character who was immensely likeable. In many ways he was a very weak man because his major flaw is that he wants to please everybody, which is why he's a masterful betrayer. That in itself is quite human — on the smallest level, little confidences, people say: 'Don't tell anyone else' and the first thing

you do is to tell someone else. It's a minor betrayal, but it's very human. In Pym, that small seed grows into a huge betrayal bush."

Egan is fascinated by Pym as "a man without a centre, so that like a chameleon, he can change his colours very easily and become what someone else wants him to become. As an actor I find that very interesting. And the responsibility for his change may lie less with him and more with the person who is making him into something else." He sees Pym not as a grand manipulator but as the object of other people's manipulation.

On the surface, 41-year-old Egan, son of a Kilburn quantity surveyor, a young street-fighter who drifted into acting and took lessons to talk posh, has little in common with Cornwell. He disagrees. "I would be very surprised if anyone, if they looked closely into a character like Pym's, couldn't find something to identify with. In every person's childhood and parental background there is an emotional scar."

Ten years ago Egan was considered an ascendant actor in the English theatre. A great fa-

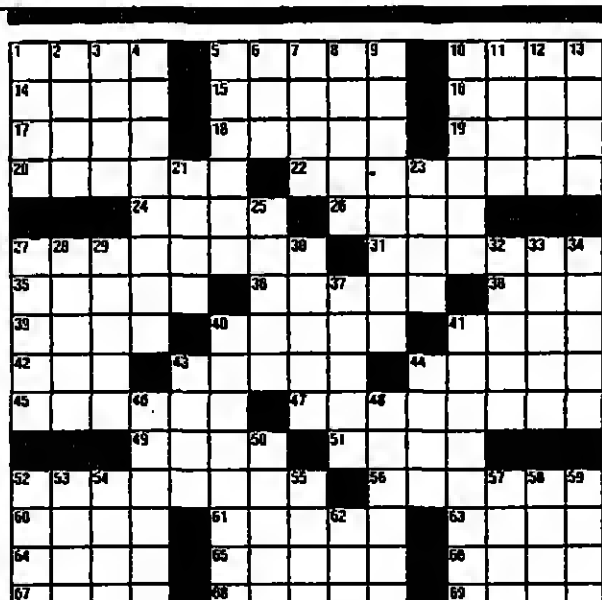


Frances Egan as Magnus Pym.

ture on stage was expected of him. But something happened, and he became instead a versatile, seldom out-of-work television actor seen most recently in John Mortimer's Paradise Postponed and in the popular gentle sitcom Ever Decreasing Circles, in a role which rarely calls on his superior acting talents.

"I think I got a bit confused in the late 70s and early 80s. I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do, whether I wanted to be an actor or a director. The work I was being offered didn't particularly excite me as an actor. I was continually being offered revivals, and no new work and in television I was being offered new work, which was much more interesting to me."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Miss Kett of the comics
 - 5 In the lead
 - 10 Placed down
 - 14 Stockade, a sea
 - 15 Carried
 - 16 Choir member
 - 17 Birch or root
 - 18 Canary's cousin
 - 19 Numerical ending
 - 20 Calm, cool and collected
 - 22 Spreads lavishly
 - 24 Maka a laar
 - 26 The Cat Nation
 - 27 Of ethnic groups
 - 31 Urge upon
 - 35 Tapestry
 - 36 First performance
 - 38 Goddess: Lat
 - 39 Self-absorbed
 - 40 Changes address
 - 41 Undergarment
 - 42 Cadiz cheer
 - 43 Star part
 - 44 Play part
 - 45 Win back
 - 47 Compensated for merit
 - 49 Carpenter's need
 - 51 It flies, usually?
 - 52 Apparent
 - 56 Eastern bishop
 - 60 Precarious place
 - 61 Small hill
 - 63 Philippine native
 - 64 Seed covering
 - 65 Like an otter
 - 66 Ostrich-like bird
 - 67 Prune
 - 68 Letovers of a type
 - 69 Forest creatures
- DOWN
- 1 Esses
 - 2 Elm or oak

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
TWO FOR THE COUNT

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 4
♥ Q 9
♦ 8 6 5 3
♣ A Q 7 2

EAST
♠ 10 8 2
♥ A 6 5 2
♦ 7
♣ J 10 9 4 3

SOUTH
♠ K 5
♥ J 10 8 3
♦ A Q J 4
♣ K 6 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♣
We remember clearly the first time we took a finesse and it won. The revelation that tricks could be won so easily ended up costing us thousands of points, for it was many years later before we learned that it was not right to take every finesse in sight. This hand is a simple example of that hard-learned lesson.

Three no trump is a normal contract to reach. Note South's re-

sponse of one diamond; it left open the possibility of finding a 4-4 heart fit. When North raised diamonds, thereby denying a four-card major, South simply bid what he expected to make.

West led a spade, and declarer saw no problem. He had seven fast tricks, and there were two more to be made if the diamond finesse succeeded. Even if it lost, a 3-2 diamond break would produce the necessary tricks. So declarer won in dummy and led a diamond to the queen. West collected the king and continued with a spade and, to cut a long story short, when the diamonds broke badly and the long club did not set up, declarer had held himself to eight tricks.

We hope you've read between our lines and realized that declarer had only himself to blame going down. While the diamond suit offered an 84 percent chance of landing the contract, playing on hearts would have guaranteed it!

After the opening lead, declarer still had two spade stoppers and only two top hearts to force out. Had he simply proceeded along those lines, he could have set up two tricks in the suit, to bring his total to nine, before the defenders could have gotten their spade suit free.

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 19)**
You will be able to put your financial affairs into better order. However that is provided you continue to be frugal. You should not allow our emotion to get the better of you. Be sensible.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
This is going to be quite a pleasant day for you. However you should be on the lookout for snags. Do not let yourself be persuaded to act against your better judgment. Be reasonable.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
Mercury's influence will help you to deal with a practical matter. At the same time Mars's influence will help you to see things more clearly. An infection should not be neglected. Be more frugal.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
You should leave yourself with enough room for manoeuvre and should examine the alternatives carefully. You should try to exercise a little more self-discipline.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
The Moon's influence will help you to make the right decision. You should not waste time on secondary matters and you should also conserve your energies.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
The stellar influences are more favourable and you will be able to get on with something that you have been putting to one side. You will have a good idea but you should consider it further.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You should not interfere in a matter that is really no concern of yours. If you use a little discretion you will be able to avoid getting into a violent argument.
- Gemini (May 21 - June 21)**
You will be subject to the beneficial influence of Mercury Mars and Jupiter and this will help you to sort out a difficult problem. You will also find it easier to maintain harmony.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You should leave as little as possible for another day. You will get better results using persuasion than force. There will be some ups and downs in your personal life but you should not panic. Be tolerant.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
You will be able to come to a decision and it will be the right one too. If you keep calm you will be able to deal with a stressful situation. Make sure you do not drink to excess and avoid driving too fast.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
Today you will be able to do something particularly constructive. However that does not mean being reckless or taking uncalculated risks.

SNIPPETS

5 buildings gutted in New Year's fire

FIVE commercial establishments were razed in a fire in Tondo, Manila.

The fire started at the second floor of N.E. Commercial building on P. Rada St. in Ilaya, Tondo at 5:45 pm according to arson investigator Cpl. Bievenido Escoto of the Western Police District (WPD). Cause of the fire is still undetermined.

The fire spread to four neighbouring buildings. Probers said the damage could easily reach several million pesos.

Workers get pay hike

SOME six million workers in both government and private establishments will receive a minimum P10 daily wage increase this year, while 14 million self-employed and industry workers will continue to get the same wage despite the expected rise in prices of prime commodities.

In a recent study made by the Department of Labour and Employment (Dole), it was disclosed that majority of the country's labour force are not within the scope of the wage laws. These include domestic helpers, family drivers, and those employed in firms with not more than 10 workers.

Government and private workers receiving over P100 daily are also excluded from the wage increase, the Dole study said.

Dole Assistant Secretary Liwayway Calalang disclosed that the new wage law which provides P10 for non-agricultural workers in Metro Manila and P11 for non-agricultural workers in the provinces has limited coverage and effect on the whole labour force.

Another award for De Vega

GOLDEN girl Lydia de Vega was unanimously voted as Athlete of the Year by the Sports Commission Organisation of the Philippines following deliberations by members of the awards committee yesterday at the Kamayan EDSA.

De Vega, who struck three golds in the Jakarta SEA Games, thus made it as back-to-back recipient of the award bestowed by SCOP for only the second time.

Actually, swimmer Eric Buham, who won five golds also in the SEA Games, crowded De Vega for the plum but was ousted out as the sprinter's feat in the Singapore Asian Amateur Athletic Association meet was taken into consideration and the 200m run.

Soldiers sacked for firing guns

ARMED Forces Chief of Staff, Gen. Fidel Ramos ordered the dismissal of three soldiers who were caught firing their guns on Christmas Eve.

However, the armed forces' Public Information Office to Camp Aguinaldo did not identify the three soldiers.

Ramos had earlier warned military personnel to avoid indiscriminate firing of their guns to celebrate Christmas and New Year to avoid accidents.

Ramos warned that those caught would be dismissed after proper investigation.

Military police patrols were sent out on New Year's Eve to areas where military personnel reside to enforce the ban on indiscriminate firing.

Shipping company willing to assume responsibility for all passengers

'Dona Paz' owners admit overloading

By Omar Acosta

A RANKING official of the shipping company which owned the ill-fated Dona Paz said the firm is willing to assume responsibility for hundreds of missing passengers who were not on the manifest.

Vicente Gambito, vice-president for marketing of Sulpicio Lines, told newsmen they are already "formulating the procedure whereby we could also protect ourselves from unscrupulous claimants."

Gambito's statement was a virtual admission that hundreds of unlisted passengers were on board the Dona Paz when it sank along with the oil tanker Vector last Dec 20 off Mindoro in history's worst peacetime maritime disaster.

The official's admission belied the claim of their port captain,

Plutarco Bawagan, who had testified before the marine inquiry board that "it is impossible for passengers to slip into the ship since we are strict here in Manila."

Gambito said he wanted to correct several reports that the "company is turning its back on the unmanifested victims." "We stand to lose more if we do that because we intend to continue serving them," Gambito said.

Gambito released the minimum requirement for the processing of claims for victims whose names are on the manifest, saying they "don't want the bereaved relatives to wait longer."

"There are relatives who are trying to grab cadavers just to assure them of claims and it's very unfortunate," he said.

He said for those recovered and identified victims, relatives

must submit a formal claim, death certificate and proof of relationship of the claimant to the victim at any of their branches.

The same is required with those unidentified or missing victims but are listed on the manifest, except that they must submit additional proofs that the victims were on board the vessel such as affidavits of at least two persons who actually saw the victim board the vessel.

The procedure for claims on unlisted victims still has to be finalized, he said.

More than 3,000 passengers were believed to have perished to the Dec 20 tragedy, but only 1,622 were officially listed on the manifest. Of the number only 26 survived, two of them crewmembers of the Vector.

Gambito said they have already compiled names of at

least 600 victims who were not on the manifest but were believed to have boarded the Dona Paz, and added they are now double-checking them.

He said the more than 200 lists, some of them cribbled on pages of a notebook and some of them by relatives who thronged their office at the North Harbour two days after the collision.

"And we're taking these (the lists) as good as a notarised affidavit," he said.

He described the lists as "better than those compiled by others" in apparent reference to the list of Rep. Raul Daza.

Daza released Monday a list of 2,000 passengers aboard the Dona Paz whose names were not on the manifest as he called for a separate congressional investigation of the disaster.

Daza's list was drawn up from the names furnished by relatives

and friends of persons who boarded the Dona Paz. It was compiled by Tacloban-based radio and television stations.

At a press briefing also attended by Sulpicio Lines general manager Eusebio Go, Gambito maintained that it was the Vector which rammed the Dona Paz at portside, hitting its fuel tank and causing it to explode and sink.

Officials of the two shipping companies have blamed each other for the disaster before a five-man marine board of inquiry. The hearings, which began Monday, was adjourned Tuesday and will resume on Monday.

"If, indeed, we (the Dona Paz) were the one which rammed the Vector, then definitely it could have been cut into two and the Dona Paz would have survived," Gambito said. He added that the ferry was bigger and 10 times heavier than the tanker.

Local elections

'Cory's choice' battle for supremacy

FLORIDABLANCA, Pampanga — The political battle in the province of Pampanga is shaping up as the most interesting in the coming local election.

How 'Cory's Choice' have done wooders in the previous election would be put into acid test in this highly politicized province when former provincial OIC Breo Guiao stepped into the fight as the candidate of Malacanang.

While knowno critics of President Aquino were badly routed in their respective crack for political office in the last election, Guiao's opponent, however, are not one of those anti-Cory elements but are all avid and loyal supporters of the administration. Tooth and nail they fought alongside Cory against the past dispensation.

Kapilku election results

FOLLOWING are the official results of the election of the members of the Board of Directors of the Kapilku for the year 1988, which was held on January 8, 1988 at the Philippine Embassy, during the association's Annual General Membership meeting.

Name	Votes
Balatayo, Gene	387
Santos, George	364
Melencio, Bong	353
Tamondong, Edna	343
Garcia, Pepe	333
Orense, Dick	333
Alcaraz, Rorie	330
Miguelillo, Nina	282
Aracangel, Ocampo, Esther	234
Racaza, Eduardo	233
Cayaza, Cely	218
Izoo, Lito	196
Oliver, Bernie	175
Corros, Clemente, Jess	147
Inserto, Manny	120
Sabado, Enrico	96
Abdon, Amy	62
Toledano, Ronald	17
Evangelista, Butch	16

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association, the top fifteen candidates have been officially elected to the Board of Directors.

Business outlook hopeful for 1988

BUSINESSMEN generally perceived a favourable business outlook through the first semester of 1988 ending June despite "uncertainties in the political scene."

This was the finding of the survey on business expectations conducted by the Central Bank on some 386 firms in Metro Manila conducted in August but the responses were made only towards the end of that month and the first week of September.

The results of the survey indicated that, along with the expectation of a generally stable interest and peso-dollar rates, businessmen expected continuing increases in sales revenues, profitability, employment, capital expenditures and capacity utilisation during the second semester of 1987 and the next semester compared to those obtained in the first semester of 1987.

Except for the electricity, gas and water group, which expected decline in net income, all sectors expected an improvement in income generation with net income index higher by 18.8 per cent and 25.3 per cent in the 1987 second semester and 1988 first semester respectively.

Among the industries surveyed, the construction sector is expected to realise the highest percentage increment to net income in the 1987 second semester (62.1 per cent) and the financial, insurance, real estate, and business services group (46.3 per

cent) in the 1988 first semester.

For the January-June 1988 period, the survey found that 42 per cent of the respondent firms reported expansion plans, 40 per cent had no expansion plans since respondent firms indicated that they are either undertaking a major replacement programme (in lieu of expansion) or planning to merge with other companies while 18 per cent had no definite answer.

Meanwhile, Aurelio Periquet Jr., president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, likewise forecast a bullish outlook for Philippine business next year.

In a statement, he forecast an especially good year for manufacturing industries oriented to consumer demand because of further increase in consumer purchasing power and the substantial channelling of this demand into residential housing demand.

"Growth will be across the board, and over a still relatively low base," making it rather "dramatic," he said. While consumer and construction oriented manufacturing industries will be bullish, it will not be at the expense of other manufacturers whose demand will likewise expand in 1988.

Periquet noted that the Oct 20 joint business survey found that 60 per cent of the respondents think 1988 will be a better year and that they have expansion plans for 1988.

Percentage Distribution of Companies With and Without Expansion Plans for the next Semester (Jan-June 1988)				
By Industry Group				
(In Percent)				
Industry Group	With Expansion Plans	No Expansion Plans	No Definite Answer	Total
All Industries	41.9	40.4	17.7	100.0
Agriculture, Fishery & Forestry	58.3	33.3	8.4	100.0
Mining & Quarrying	38.1	52.4	9.5	100.0
Manufacturing	44.7	43.4	11.9	100.0
Electricity, Gas & Water	59.0	25.0	16.0	100.0
Construction	29.0	52.0	28.0	100.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	32.9	35.8	31.4	100.0
Transportation, Storage & Communications	43.8	50.0	6.2	100.0
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	53.0	29.4	17.6	100.0
Community, Social & Personal Services	72.7	18.2	9.1	100.0

Source of Basic Data: Survey of Business Expectations, Central Bank

Muslim separatists planning March offensive

THOUSANDS of Muslim separatist guerrillas are set to launch an offensive in Mindanao early this year, the military said yesterday.

The Moro National Liberation Front led by Nur Misuari is planning the offensive in time for an Islamic conference in Jordan in March as part of its bid to gain regular membership in the Organisation of Islamic Conference, Maj. Geo. Eduardo Ermita, armed forces deputy chief of staff, said.

"They are preparing themselves for a resumption of hostilities which we feel they are trying to time in preparation for the 17th Islamic Conference to be held in March," Ermita told a news conference held at Camp Aguinaldo.

Ermita said the military reckons the MNLF, which enjoys observer status with the OIC, was "still waiting for some degree of support for them to be able to make good the threat," he did not elaborate.

Ermita estimated Muslim separatist rebels number about 80,000. About 30,500 rebels are under the Misuari faction, 3,000 owe allegiance to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) under Hashim Salamat, and the rest belong to the reformist group under Dimas Pundato.

There are about five million Muslims in this largely Roman Catholic nation, and they are concentrated in Mindanao where the MNLF is struggling to establish a separate Moro homeland.

Among the items on the agenda of the OIC's meeting is the application of the Misuari faction for membership.

Misuari, who is based in the



Misuari: threatening to resume armed campaign

Middle East, has been threatening to resume his armed campaign for a separate Moro state in Mindanao after peace talks with the Aquino administration collapsed last May. A ceasefire has been generally held in the region since September 1986.

Ermita, considered an expert on Muslim affairs, said the military has been receiving persistent reports of arms landing in Mindanao for the rebel secessionist movement.

Ermita said the Pundato faction "is not in the mood to start warfare but the Misuari faction is all set to make their presence felt."

The threat of the warfare will increase as the OIC meeting nears, Ermita said.

But the threat may owe less than it was 15 years ago since many of the MNLF commanders have "gone into business" and are now major personalities in the barter trade and various logging concessions in Mindanao, Ermita said.

The Muslim secessionist rebellion erupted in Mindanao shortly after President Marcos declared martial law in 1972.

As the military gained the upperhand over the MNLF rebels in the battlefield, Marcos wooed Muslim rebel leaders to return to the fold of the law through "incentives" in the form of business and other economic benefits.

An estimated 50,000 government troops, a third of the armed forces, are based in Mindanao to battle MNLF rebels and communist guerrillas as well.

From reports by Dave Veridiano and AFP

Starlet convicted

LOS ANGELES: A former B-movie starlet and self-proclaimed lover of deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos who also claims to be carrying the AIDS virus sobbed and openly fainted as she was sentenced to eight years in prison for lying to obtain \$18 million in bad loans.

Dovie Beams de Villagran, 55, trembled, clung to the podium and at times cried loudly during the sentencing before US District Judge Pamela Rymer. At one point, Rymer called a recess and a nurse was summoned to the

courtroom when De Villagran appeared to be on the verge of fainting.

Jurors convicted De Villagran of 39 counts of bank fraud and bankruptcy fraud Nov 10, finding that she submitted false financial statements and bogus tax returns to a dozeo banks to obtain \$18 million in loans and cooceled at least \$6 million in assets from bankruptcy trustees.

Her husband, Sergio Villagran, 54, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years in prison.



Actor-turned-politician proposes bill on movie industry development

Film industry 'strangled' by taxes: Estrada

By Diego Cagahastian

THE local movie industry is 75 years old this year. It is one of Asia's pioneer film industries, producing some 300 titles a year during its peak.

Filipino filmmakers are comparable to the best of the world. The works of Gerardo de Leon, dean of local directors, are as good as those of other "international directors" such as Vittorio de Sica and Akira Kurosawa.

Manuel Conde's "Genghis Khan" was well-acclaimed by American critic and film editor James Agee.

Cootemporary directors Augusto Buenaventura, Lino Brocka, Celso Ad. Castillo, and Ishmael Bernal have made many outstanding films; some have even received international recognition.

It is safe to say that the local movie industry is not lacking in talent or material.

But it is saddled with problems of obsolete equipment, censorship, a constricted market, and most importantly, taxation.

Thus, the industry lags behind most of its Asian counterparts.

Sen. Joseph Estrada, founder of the Metro Manila Film Festival and for years the acknowledged leader of the film industry, attributes its slow growth to government taxes.

The government "strangles the industry with a multiplicity of taxes that add up to about 42 per cent of every film producer's gross share of exhibition returns," Estrada said in sponsoring a proposed law on movie industry development.

The bill, which he filed in the Senate with co-authors Senators Orlando Mercado, Agapito Aquino, Ernesto Maceda, and Jose Lina Jr., seeks to give relief to the local movie industry by "amending Section 13 of the Local Tax Code fixing amusement taxes on admissions not to exceed 10 per cent."

Estrada said that if passed, the measure would radically improve the return on investment of local movie producers, and profits could be channeled to training and professionalising film workers.



Senator Estrada

Estrada said that former San Juan mayor Reynaldo San Pascual, chairman of the executive board of the film-fest, should not take credit in convincing former mayors Gemilao Lopez Jr. and Brigidio Simoo Jr. into joining the 1986 festival "because they have no choice but to join."

"Their objections are under-

standable because several million pesos in amusement taxes, would go to the film industry instead of the local government coffers.

But there is an executive order that must be followed by all Metro Manila mayors, so unless this law is repealed, the festival goes on," Estrada said.

The actor-turned-politician recalled that in 1974 when he was pushing for the first Metro Manila Film Festival, he told fellow mayors: "For 365 days a year, the movie industry contributes P580 million to your towns and cities. Why can't you give it just 10 days' collection of amusement taxes for its own development?"

Estrada discounted insinuations that the film festival was used for political purposes when he was handling it. As a matter of fact, he said, it was last year when movie actors and actresses issued a manifesto condemning the way the awards night was presented to shore up the image of some officer-in-charge.

The senator also expressed concern about the deteriorating quality of local films and the

stagnation of film workers in terms of training and intellectual development.

His pet project, the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund), has widened its services to the movie workers to include not only hospitalisation and social security programmes but also scholarships, seminars and other training schemes.

"Five or six years from now, many of our artistic and technical workers in films will have undergone training here and abroad, as envisioned by the proposed measure. We can again claim the film leadership in Asia," Estrada said.

He also cited the potentials of the local film industry in making a breakthrough in the international market, because the Senate bill provides "export incentives by way of tax exemptions to investments channeled to exportable motion picture projects."

Estrada said that a majority of senators have pledged support for the movie industry measure, thus assuring its passage early next year.

Linking arms for peace



Some 300 Filipinos link arms to form a human chain on Manila's main highway last week during a demonstration calling for peace in the country rocked by political violence.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Zawawi calls for unified GCC economic strategy

MUSCAT, Jan 9. (AP): Oman's top government economist called for a unified economic strategy by the six Gulf Cooperation Council states so they can deal more effectively with world-wide economic blocs, a newspaper reported today.

Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Zawawi was quoted by the Oman daily Observer as saying that incentives to industry should be uniform in the GCC states — Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The issue will be debated at the next meeting of the GCC Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee which will explore ways of standardising incentives, he said.

Economic unity

The GCC was established six years ago by the Arab states of the oil-rich region. It is moving gradually toward economic unity patterned along the lines of the European Economic Community.

"If agreement is reached on this subject, the GCC states could be declared a joint economic zone with a unified economic agreement in full operation, enabling them to confront the other economic communities in the world," Zawawi said. "I hope an agreement is reached."

He noted that the eighth GCC summit in Riyadh last month sanctioned further steps to boost commercial cooperation and trade ties among the member states along the road to economic unity.

"Most important of all was the decision to allow GCC nationals to practise their professions in any of the GCC states, and the encouragement of joint private sector projects," he said.

Implementation of development plan postponed

LAGOS, Jan 9. (Opecna): The implementation of Nigeria's fifth national development plan has been postponed till January 1989, President Ibrahim Babangida has announced.

He said in the 1988 budget broadcast at the declaration of economic emergency for the period October 1985 to December 1986 was responsible for the "inevitable postponement".

The launching of the two-tier structural adjustment programme in July 1986 also raised "serious questions" about the wisdom of commencing such a "fundamental plan now."

Challenges

He further cited the necessity for dealing urgently with the challenges of economic stabilisation and structural recovery.

There should be an adequate breathing space to enable the full impact and lessons of the structural adjustment programme to be digested and incorporated into the fifth plan, he said.

The year 1988 would therefore serve as an "important bridging period between the agonies of the recent past and the hope for future orderly growth," the president pointed out.

Two Turkish banks merge

ISTANBUL, Jan 9. (Reuters): Two Turkish state banks have merged in a major rationalisation move partly caused by a large volume of non-performing loans, bankers said today.

Anadolu Bankasi Tas and Turkiye Emlak Kredi Bankasi AO joined forces to form Turkiye Emlak Bankasi AS, to be known as Konutbank, meaning housing bank.

Konutbank, established by official decree yesterday with an initial capital of 225 billion lira (\$225 million), will become the third biggest bank in Turkey, general manager Bulent Semiler told reporters.

Traditional

He said Konutbank would aim to compete mostly in foreign trade finance and continue Emlak Kredi's traditional role in financing big and individual housing projects.

Banking sources said Anadolu ran up losses of 77 billion lira (\$77 million) in the first nine months of 1987.

They said most of this was due to accumulated bad debt endemic in Turkey's banking system, especially the old-established state banks, which now number nine.

Semiler had been posted to head Anadolu and inject new dynamism into the bank after centre-right Prime Minister Turgut Ozal was elected to power in 1983.

Observers looking ahead with a mixture of hope and trepidation

Trade figures looming large on Wall Street

NEW YORK, Jan 9. (AP): In the wake of another sharp drop in the stock market, Wall Street observers are looking ahead with a mixture of hope and trepidation to next Friday's report on the nation's balance of trade.

These figures have been a big event in the financial world since last summer and fall, when a series of disappointments in the trade figures sent the stock market reeling.

But something extra may be on the line this time.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, the US Central Bank, is on record with a prediction that the data to be reported on Friday, which are for November, will show an improvement from the month before.

Appearing before the House of Representatives Banking Committee a few weeks ago, Greenspan called the record \$17.6-billion gap between imports and exports that was reported for October "an aberration."

"I expect it will be reversed when the next series comes out," the Central Bank head said.

Thus, an unpleasant surprise now — say, anything larger than about \$15 billion — could be met with considerable dismay in the currency, stock and bond markets, analysts say.

"If the monthly deficit is high again, Greenspan may feel he has to raise interest rates to keep the dollar bears at bay," Business Week magazine said in an editorial in its current issue.

"If he does, he will risk putting his name on a recession deeper than anyone imagined in the days after the crash," it said.

Many private economists share Greenspan's optimism about the prospective shape of the November figures.

They cite evidence of increasing strength in US exports and a levelling off or even the beginnings of a decline in the share of consumer dollars spent on imported goods.

Those hopes seemed to rise and fall in the past week. The dollar rallied from its year-end 1987 lows against leading foreign currencies, with a push from "intervention" buying by central banks.

The stock market followed the dollar's lead, chalking up gains in the first four sessions of the year. But then it tumbled yesterday, sending the Dow Jones industrial average down 140.25 points for its third largest drop ever.

Dow Jones

For the week, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials finished with a 27.19-point loss at 1,911.64.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index dropped 1.20 to 137.03, the American Stock Exchange market value index lost 6.09 to 266.44, and the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market rose 8.00 to 338.47.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 186.74 million shares a day, against 140.55 million the week before.

Even for some analysts who

regarded the trade deficit as a grossly overrated influence on the market, the potential impact of the figure on Federal Reserve policy is a significant concern.

Susan Berge Kent at Tucker, Anthony and R.L. Day Inc., contends a slowdown in the growth of the basic measure of the money supply known as M1 since early 1987 has made a recession inevitable this year.

"It may be a segmented recession, in which only certain sectors of the economy suffer while others continue to grow, it may be mild and short-lived, or it may be deep and prolonged, if the Fed is unwilling or unable to get the year-to-year rate of growth in money supply turned up," she said. "So far there is no evidence of Fed easing."

Experts wary of making any stock market predictions for '88

World economy looks set to surge ahead

NEW YORK, Jan 9. (AP): The year 1988 could be a fairly good one for the world economy, according to an Associated Press survey of international financial experts.

AP bureaus around the world queried national and international agency economists, financial consultants, bankers, academics, brokers and other business experts around the globe in the first week of January.

In the United States, where the New York Stock Exchange took its biggest beating since World War II in October 1987, experts were wary of making any stock market predictions for 1988.

Projections

Using standard market indicators, "you get positive projections," said New York investment adviser Martin Zweig. "Yet somehow I'm not comfortable here. After crashes, the market takes its sweet time healing its wounds."

As for the US economy, from which the stock market would presumably take its cue, the Commerce Department predicted that American manufacturing would continue to advance in 1988 after picking up steam in 1987.

"Overall, 1988 should be another growth year, possibly better than 1987," said deputy secretary of commerce Clarence J. Brown as he unveiled the department's forecast for the coming year.

On inflation, which could be crucial for the battered

American dollar in foreign exchange markets in 1988, the consensus of 36 leading US private economists was that the inflation rate would pick up slightly from 3.8 per cent in the first half of the year to 4.5 per cent in the second half.

Crucial

US interest rates are another crucial factor for the dollar. The average prediction of the 35 economists' forecasts was that rates will end 1988 approximately at present levels, 6 per cent for short-term rates and 9 per cent for long-term rates.

High interest rates attract money from abroad and thus tend to raise the foreign exchange value of the dollar.

However, political uncertainty as the United States elects a new president in November "is unlikely to be a positive factor for the dollar," said David Morrison, chief international economist for Goldman Sachs Corp. in London.

Out of the 36 economists polled by the Wall Street Journal, only two are predicting a US recession this year.

In Paris, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, whose members are the world's 24 most industrialised nations, projected 1988 Gross National Product growth of 2.25 per cent for the OECD countries. However, it forecasts only 1.5 per cent growth for West Germany and urged Bonn to act promptly to stimulate its economy.

In its biannual economic outlook, the OECD said more "prolonged or acute financial-market turmoil could carry with it the risk of a recession."

The OECD report said the October stock market crash "is projected to weaken economic activity over the next year or so."

Britain's economy is faring better than that of its major trading partners and is expected to grow 2.5 per cent in 1988 compared with 4 per cent in 1987, Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson said.

Expansion

In Tokyo, the Ministry of Finance projects Japan's economic growth rate will be about 3.8 per cent in 1988, led primarily by expansion in domestic demand. It said the country's trade surplus is also expected to narrow by \$11 billion to \$81 billion in 1988 from \$92 billion in 1987.

The Japanese government also expects unemployment will decline slightly to 2.7 per cent in 1988 from 2.8 per cent in 1987.

The outlook for 1988 in the newly industrialised countries such as Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea depends largely on prosperity in the major industrial countries, which are the major markets for their exports. In the newly industrialised nations optimism seemed predominant.

"Barring more serious mishaps such as a US recession, we should achieve growth of 5 to 6 per cent in 1988," said Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew in his New Year message.

In developing countries, 1988 seemed to promise some relief for debtor nations as the year opened with the announcement of a new plan for heavily indebted Mexico.

With the help of the US government, Mexico was expected to reduce its yearly payments and shrink its \$100-billion foreign debt by about \$10 billion. This would be the first plan to actually reduce a Third World country's debt since the international debt crisis began in 1982.

However, Mexican economists said 1988 will likely be a difficult one for Mexicans. At the end of 1987, the government instituted a programme designed to reduce the inflation rate to 1 per cent to 2 per cent a month by the end of 1988 from the current annual rate of 150 per cent.

Government officials acknowledged it would slow economic activity in the first quarter. But budget secretary Pedro Aspe predicted that the economy would expand at an inflation-adjusted rate of 2 per cent for the year as a whole.

Many debtor countries have actually experienced negative growth in recent years as their economies were swamped by heavy foreign debt payments.

Prices of commodities such as metals, grain and cotton that are the staples of world trade rose briskly in 1987, but many experts anticipate a slacker year in 1988. Petroleum, which hit a peak of \$22 a barrel in 1987, is expected to be especially hard hit this year.

No plan to control BP, says Kuwait

LONDON, Jan 9. (Reuters): Kuwait has told Britain it does not plan to use its big stake in British Petroleum Co. (BP) to control the oil giant, the British Treasury said yesterday.

A short Treasury statement said: "The Kuwaiti authorities have assured us that they have no ambitions to control BP, nor any interest in any management role, and that the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) holding in the company is intended as a long-term investment."

Since the stock market crash in October, the KIO, an investment arm of the Kuwait government, has quietly built up its holding in BP to 18.35 per cent.

Concern

Oil analysts said there had been some concern within BP and the government that foreign investors had such a big stake in Britain's largest company.

Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labour Party, later said in a letter to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that the scale of the operation and the KIO's present and potential ownership had serious implications for Britain.

Kinnock noted Kuwait was an Opec member, and that when Britain ceased to be a net exporter of oil, Kuwaiti interests would be contrary to those of Britain.

US oil firms expect average price of \$18.20

NEW YORK, Jan 9. (Opecna): Major and independent oil companies in the United States are expecting that oil prices will average around \$18.20 a barrel this year, according to a survey conducted by the New York-based firm of Solomon Brothers.

The survey notes that substantial increases are to be expected in worldwide petroleum and gas exploration and development expenditures during 1988.

It says the companies have prepared "surprisingly strong" budgets for their 1988 exploration and exploitation programmes. The majority of companies surveyed described the 1988 exploration climate as good or excellent.

In the United States, the major companies are raising their exploration and development budgets for this year to more than \$13 billion, while the independents indicate a combined increase to 2.75 billion.

The study also notes a significant switch towards offshore exploration compared to the situation in 1987 with 40 per cent of all companies surveyed increasing their expenditures on offshore activities.

The survey says there also appears to be a tendency towards placing emphasis on natural gas drilling as three-fourths of the companies believe that during the next two years output levels of natural gas should be brought back into balance.

Although the drilling costs of the companies surveyed are expected to increase by more than 80 per cent, only 16 per cent of them anticipate that increased costs will strain their budgets.

The report concludes that this year 73 per cent of the major oil companies will continue to shift their exploration and development expenditures on overseas ventures against 93 per cent in 1987.

Iranian team in Ankara for pipeline talks

ANKARA, Jan 9. (Opecna): A delegation of Iranian technical experts is holding negotiations with Turkish government officials here involving a pipeline which will carry Iranian crude through Turkey.

The talks which are said to be "final" will last two weeks. Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh is expected to arrive in the Turkish capital later in the month.

Over the years, various pipeline schemes have been considered by the two countries, but it is the first time concrete steps are being taken.

A Turkish government source told the Opecna News Agency that the pipeline would bring crude from Iran's Ahwaz field in south-western Iran to the Turkish Mediterranean terminal of Doryol Iskenderun, a distance of about 1,900 km. Construction costs of the one million b/d line are estimated at \$4.30 billion.

World Business Summary

S. Korea to produce more commercial vehicles

SEOUL, Jan 9. (AP): The Ministry of Trade and Industry said today it has decided to develop trucks and other commercial vehicles as South Korea's strategic export items. A long-term auto industry development plan, released by the ministry, called for boosting the annual production of commercial vehicles to 2 million by the year 2000, six times the present capacity. The plan predicts South Korea's annual exports of commercial vehicles, including trucks, jeeps and ambulances, will rise from 10,000 units last year to 100,000 units by 1991, 300,000 units by 1996 and 900,000 units by the year 2000. Ministry officials said the commercial vehicle market has become more promising, partly because the stronger Japanese yen has eroded the competitiveness of Japanese automakers. South Korean automakers are now stressing car exports, which may slow because of growing international competition and the likelihood of increased protectionism in Western countries, they said. Demand for commercial vehicles in the United States and some other markets, however, is likely to rise, they said. The ministry will encourage top auto manufacturers Daewoo Motor Co. and Kia Motors Corp. to team up with their respective joint venture partners, General Motors and Ford, to produce commercial vehicles under US brand names, the officials said. Local reports have hinted that South Korea is looking toward China as a potential market — saying the auto plan could help prepare the country for exports to a "third country" via Hong Kong. Seoul has no formal ties with China, but the two countries currently conduct indirect trade through Hong Kong.

Japan to allow foreign firms access to public works

TOKYO, Jan 9. (AP): The government will open some large-scale public works projects to US and other foreign firms in a limited market-opening measure it hopes will help defuse trade tensions, news reports said today. Japan's nationally circulated newspaper, national television and wire services quoted unidentified sources as saying Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno would discuss the plan with US Secretary of State George Shultz when they meet in Washington on Tuesday. The talks come one day before Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita meets US President Ronald Reagan during Takeshita's first US trip since becoming premier last November. Some accounts also said Japan would accept a recommendation by a panel of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to remove import restrictions on 12 farm products, a key demand by the United States. According to the reports, the central government will allow foreign contractors access to six designated public works projects, including expansion of the Tokyo International Airport and second-stage construction of the new Tokyo International Airport at Narita. The other projects will include roadways and bridges, they said. The government will consider foreign companies' performance records in other countries if they lack such records in Japan, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun newspaper said. Officials at the foreign affairs and construction ministries refused comment on the reports.

New measures to cut steel output quotas

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Jan 9. (AP): The European Economic Community today formally approved new measures to cut steel production quotas in line with an agreement by member state industry ministers late last year. The new measures mean that less than 50 per cent of the EEC's steel will be regulated under quotas, compared with almost 85 per cent at the end of 1985, the Community's Executive Commission said. As decided by the 12 EEC governments on Dec 22, the production quotas now apply to only four products, compared with nine when the system first came into force in 1980. The limits will now be set only for hot-rolled coil, cold-rolled sheet, heavy plate and heavy sections. The Commission said the production quotas, which run until the end of June, would be extended only if it gets firm guarantees from steel producers by June 10 for closures of excess production capacity.

The Commission estimated the excess capacity totals 20.7 million metric tons.

It said that the new measures were an extension of the 1980 quota system, except for some easing of the production limits for small, specialty steel producers, which had complained that the quotas were harming their business.

Retail sales up sharply

BEIJING, Jan 9. (AP): Retail sales increased sharply in China in 1987 despite rising prices, shortages of some products and increasing government pressure to hold down spending levels. State Statistics Bureau estimates put national sales last year at 582 billion yuan (\$157 billion), up 17.6 per cent from 1986, or 9.6 per cent after adjustment for inflation, the China Daily reported yesterday. Purchases of food increased 18.1 per cent, partially as a result of double-digit price hikes for some items, to 276.3 billion yuan (\$75 billion), while sales of clothing jumped 13.9 per cent to 88 billion yuan (\$24 billion). Chinese bought an estimated 147.2 billion yuan (\$40 billion) of consumer goods, up 16.7 per cent, the bureau said. The spending spree came despite shortages of some popular items such as high-quality television and agricultural problems that led to the rationing of pork and sugar in some Chinese cities. Inflation is believed to be around 10 per cent in many Chinese cities. The government has said that in 1988 it will continue to hold down the money supply, restrict loans and new construction projects and encourage frugality in order to curb excessive demand. The report said that last year China sold about 23 million television sets, 16 million tape recorders, 25.8 million electric fans, 14 million washing machines and four million refrigerators. Sales by individual traders, who have been encouraged under China's economic reforms, jumped 24.2 per cent to 100 billion yuan (\$27 billion), it said.

Consumer prices soar

MEXICO CITY, Jan 9. (AP): Consumer prices soared a record 159.2 per cent last year, the nation's central bank announced yesterday, just a few weeks after the government unveiled a new inflation-fighting programme. The Bank of Mexico said consumer prices skyrocketed 14.8 per cent in December alone, the highest one-month gain since the government began collecting such statistics in 1968. Consumer prices rose 105.7 per cent in 1986, which had been the previous record level. They were up 63.7 per cent in 1985 and 59.2 per cent in 1984. The government says its new economic programme should reduce the inflation rate to a monthly pace of one per cent to two per cent by year's end. Private analysts are skeptical that the programme, which calls for indexing wages and prices beginning in March, will achieve such a marked success. The Bank of Mexico report blamed the fresh surge in prices partly on the new economic programme, which in mid-December nearly doubled prices for some basic goods and services controlled by the government. "The increase in the consumer price index in December 1987 was influenced in a special manner by the increases that occurred, on the 16th, in the prices of goods and services produced by the public sector," it said in the report. The biggest increase in December prices was a 25.7 per cent gain in transportation costs. Food prices rose 10.5 per cent and housing costs climbed 20.2 per cent.

America seen biggest rice exporter in 1988: experts

WASHINGTON, Jan 9. (AP): The United States is likely to be the world's biggest rice exporter this year for the first time since the early 1980s, but only because the rains didn't arrive on schedule in Thailand.

One result has been rising prices and a depletion of US rice inventories, according to Agriculture Department experts.

"The world outlook for rice in 1988 is one of extremely tight supplies, increased export demand, low ending stocks, and firm prices," says Frank Gomme, agricultural marketing specialist in the department's Foreign Agricultural Service.

Lowest

Gomme, reporting in a new issue of Agricultural Outlook magazine, said that in light of poor crops in south and south-east Asia, world rice trade this year is expected to be about 10.4 million metric tons (11.4 million tons) on a milled basis, the lowest in a decade and about 2 million (2.2 million) less than in 1987.

"Although the United States should benefit from lower availabilities in Asia, especially Thailand, the opportunity comes at a time when US stocks are limited," he said. "Still, the United States could return as the world's leading rice exporter for the first time since the early 1980s, with exports forecast at 2.6 million metric tons (2.9 million tons)."

The Thai rice harvest dropped to 9.9 million tons (10.9 million tons) from 12.2 million (13.4 million) in 1986-87, and the country's exports are projected at 1.9 million tons (2.1 million tons), down from 4.2 million (4.6 million).

World rice output in the 1987-88 marketing year is projected at 301.6 million tons (331.8 million tons) a milled basis, down from 317.1 (348.8) in 1986-87 and the record production of more than 320 million tons (352 million tons) in 1985-86.

With less rice available in the world market, importers are scurrying to meet their needs, along with some other countries which have experienced poor harvests this season.

"The large Middle Eastern importers such as Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq will continue to be among the top purchasers, although Iran and Iraq may buy less because of large 1987 purchases and partially rebuilt stocks," Gomme said. "Bangladesh, which suffered severely damaging floods in 1987 and already has had to buy close to 1 million tons (1.1 million tons), will remain a major importer this year."

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Consumer confidence not affected

Europe seen escaping impact of crash

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Jan 9. (AP): Nearly three months after Black Monday on the stock markets, many economists have concluded that West European economies will escape almost unscathed, barring further upheaval.

Forecasters in recent weeks have revised downward slightly their predictions for European economic growth in 1988, but most say the gloomier outlook is due more to the dollar's weakness than to the stock plunge.

Few see any prospect of a recession hitting Western Europe before 1990.

Gloomy

"We're slightly on the gloomy side of normal, but it's certainly not tearing the hair out," said Geoffrey Horton, chief economist in the London office of DRI Europe, a research and consulting firm.

Horton and other economists said the impact of the October

stock market crash probably would be felt more strongly in the United States than in Europe because US shares are more widely held by the public. As a result, European consumer spending is less likely to be hurt, they said.

"Consumer confidence in Europe has not been affected by the crash," said Francis Uytendaele, an economist at the Brussels office in the WEFA Group, a consulting firm. "Consumers have not scaled back."

He said early fears expressed by economists that the October debacle would trigger a worldwide recession in 1988 probably were exaggerated.

"By now we have enough evidence to say the effect has been close to nothing" for Western European economic growth, Uytendaele said.

The main worry among economists and European governments is that continuing policy

disagreements between the United States and its major trading partners — or other factors — could trigger another stock market debacle or a spectacular collapse of the US dollar.

"The uncertainty is what worries me," said Brian Hindley, a professor of economics at the London School of Economics. "The uncertainty stems from not understanding why the stock market crashed" in the first place.

Bulk

Kuwait market rally fades out

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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برج حوت (۳۰ جولائی تا ۳۰ اگست)

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برج حمل

برج حمل (۳۱ جولائی تا ۳۱ اگست)

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SPORTS

Gambit and Kings Ransom win Spring Series race

GAMBIT and Kings Ransom, skippered by D. Cook and R. Dowes respectively, won Kuwait Offshore Sailing Association's (KOSA) first race of the Spring 1988 Series at Fahaeel on Friday.

The race was a short one, 10.9 miles, and held in calm waters under a clear blue sky and a north-westerly wind of about 10 knots.

The three Class I boats of Danat, Red Viking and Gambit all gained the advantage of a good start whilst in Class II, Whispering was the first boat away.

By the first mark Gambit and Lemons had overhauled Red Viking with Danat well in the lead, whilst in Class II Whispering maintained her lead followed by Limala, Magic Flute and Kings Ransom.

Danat extended her lead on the leg out to sea with Limala overtaking Whispering but all Class II were closely grouped together at the turning point.

On the return inshore, the same order was maintained in Class II although Limala lost much of her lead as a result of overshooting the inshore mark. Along this leg, Shamsal sailed particularly well but was unable to overtake Red Viking who reinforced her advantage on the windward leg.

Badly

Danat suffered from a late spinnaker hoist on the last downwind leg and was also early in dropping the spinnaker at the end of the leg whilst Lemons badly tore her spinnaker during the race. Gambit improved her position along this leg and gained further benefit from the last leg to the finish, with Class I crossing the line in the same order established at the first mark.

In Class II, Limala was first to finish with Magic Flute second after having overtaken Whispering on the last leg but all the Class II boats were closely grouped.

The result on handicap was: Class I: 1st Gambit (D. Cook); 2nd Danat (UASC); 3rd Red Viking (J. Waters).

Class II: 1st Kings Ransom (R. Dowes); 2nd Limala (K. Graham); 3rd Whispering (M. Gillespie).

The Spring Series continues with a mid-distance race starting 09.00 hours on Friday, January 22, from Fahaeel Sea Club.

Lendl holds on to beat Masur

GOLD COAST, Jan 9, (Reuters): The roar of World War II aircraft brought out the fighting spirit to world number one Ivan Lendl today.

The Czechoslovak saved two match points against Wally Masur to prevent the Australian causing a major shock in the final of a six-man tennis challenge.

Lendl's last out before the Australian Open begins on Monday.

Served

But at the end of a three-hour battle, Lendl ran out a 6-7 (2-7) 7-6 (10-8) 6-4 winner.

Masur, who achieved fleeting fame by beating Boris Becker in last year's Australian Open, served for the match in the second set at 5-4, but was broken, and then had two matchpoints in the tiebreak.

The world number one, past winner of three French and three United States Open titles, has never won the Australian championship which was traditionally played on grass before the opening of the new National Tennis Centre.

Opportunity

But the artificial rebound ace surface, faster than most hardcourts with a good bounce, appears ideally suited to the Czechoslovak's style and 27-year-old Lendl knows he will never have a better opportunity of winning all four major championships, like Budge (1938) and Laver (1969) before him.

"I will suit someone who can play well from the back of the court, set it up and then come in," said Slobodan Zivonovic.

The eighth-seeded Yugoslav's recipe for success fits Lendl like a glove and also applies to defending champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden, who is seeking a third successive Melbourne triumph.

"Only Lendl or a Swede can win here," was Australian Paul McNamee's gloomy verdict after practicing on the new surface.

Lendl, runner-up to Pat Cash at Wimbledon in 1987, has yet to win a grass court title of any description but he is a master of

NOVICE KART DRIVERS CLOSE ON VETERANS

Baker triumphs again to take ACC lead

By Gail Seery

FRIDAY'S Ahmadi Challenge Cup (ACC) races ended in another victory for last year's champion Rob Baker. This result now puts Baker into the lead in the ACC, as well as in the Kuwait National Drivers' Championship (KNDC). Baker has had a good season, only failing to take a victory in the Enduro race which formed the first round of the ACC in December.

Instead of having four heats to determine pole position and then one final race, as is the KNDC, the ACC consists of four distinct races over ten laps, with pole position determined on a random basis, and the points from each going towards a cumulative total.

Bringing

Baker won all four of Friday's races, gaining a total of eighty points overall. In second place overall was Jeff Butt in Kart 2, who came in directly behind Baker in each of the races.

Novice driver Eric Andrews came in third, with Lloyd, Gandy and Fulcher bringing up the rear.

Friday's races were run with only six karts, as Richard Thomas is on leave. It seems a pity that so few drivers participate, as the track appears almost deserted if one or more karts spin off. In the first race of the day, Butt had pole position, and Baker started from the back of the grid. Butt managed to maintain his lead into the third lap, but Baker had come through



Baker (centre), Butt (left) and Andrews with their trophies.

and was challenging strongly when Butt almost span going into the chicane and lost speed; Baker took the lead from him shortly afterwards.

Karts 3 and 7, driven by Fulcher and Andrews, had already left the track, and later in the race Lloyd spun and restarted, to be lapped by Baker on the chicane. By the end of the first race the four remaining karts were strung out over the track.

Baker had pole position for the second race, took the lead and held it, opening the gap considerably, while Butt was caught behind Gandy, Lloyd, and Fulcher. Gandy span on the entry to the chicane, and Butt moved past Fulcher, to challenge Lloyd. By the sixth lap the final result was settled, with Baker leading, followed by Butt — with too high a distance for the former to be in danger of losing his position. Then came Lloyd, followed by Andrews.

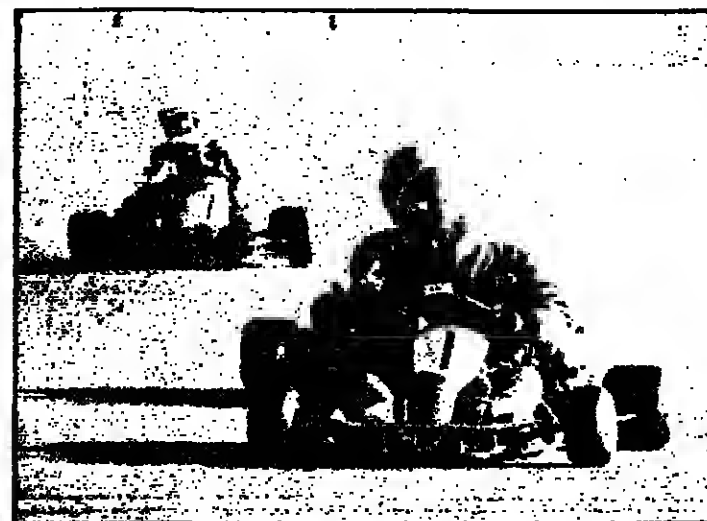
Fulcher had pole position for race three, but was suffering from continual engine problems which left him unable to capitalise on his advantage at the start. Andrews was next to him, with Butt and Baker immediately behind. There was a scramble at the start as both the stronger drivers pushed through, with Baker taking an immediate lead once again, and Butt coming in behind him. Andrews took third place with Gandy and Lloyd being followed by Fulcher, who withdrew a few laps later, with his engine sounding decidedly unwell.

Baker ran away with the race, although Butt did his best to keep close to him.

The real excitement was the tussle which developed between Gandy in fourth place and Lloyd, who was following him closely into each corner. The two novices kept up the fight for a number of laps before Lloyd pushed past and Gandy span, and restarted well back in the field. Lloyd explained that they had both been pushing hard into the corners. "I almost came off myself there — it was just luck that it was him and not me."

In the final race of the day, Lloyd had pole with Gandy next to him — and once again Baker and Butt were immediately behind, waiting to barge through at the first opportunity.

This time Gandy managed to



Baker (No. 1) leading during one of the races.

take the lead and keep it into the third lap, but it was obvious that he wouldn't be able to hold out against Baker for long. Butt took Lloyd as they sped out of the chicane, and spent the next two laps taking on Gandy. He came through by the end of the fifth lap, and chased after Baker, who had been opening up his lead. Lloyd went off, and Eric Andrews, chasing after Butt, was able to stop too large a gap developing. He in turn was chased by Gandy, but the final result of the race was already settled.

Baker was having few problems during the day, although he felt that his engine had been missing slightly in one of the early races. Butt had brake problems in the first heat, so he

couldn't go into the corners as fast as he would have liked. He denied that it was frustrating to perpetually finish second to Baker. "I'm chasing oow," he said. "I haven't won any events; I'm just trying to close the gap. Last year I finished nowhere, and now I'm catching him up. My equipment is better, and I'm gaining driving experience. My confidence is a lot higher, and I'm not feeling the pressure so much. I've been finishing consistently, and we're heading in the right direction."

Dennis Fulcher was very unhappy with his day, writing off two engines. "It's been a disastrous day," he said. The other drivers were enjoying themselves. "I've had no problems," said Andrews, "but Jeff and Rob, with their professional engines, definitely have the edge."

Close

Gandy said that he had enjoyed his days racing considerably, as there had been some close fighting. Gandy observed that Lloyd, Andrews and himself were novices and that they were beginning to close the gap between themselves and the more experienced drivers.

ACC Points after 2 rounds:
1. Kart 1 Rob Baker 34, 80, Total 114; 2. Kart 2 Jeff Butt 36, 72, total 108; 3. Kart 7 Eric Andrews 40, 65, Total 105; 4. Kart 6 Paul Gandy 32, 62, total 94; 5. Kart 3 Simon Lloyd 28, 64, total 92; 6. Kart 3 Dennis Fulcher 30, 58, total 88; 7. Kart 4 Richard Thomas 26, - 26 total 26.

Chesnukov to clash with Fitzgerald

Shriver to meet Sukova for title

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan 9, (UPI): America's Pam Shriver and Czechoslovakia's Helena Sukova, the top two seeds in the \$325,000 New South Wales Open are primed for a serve and volley shootout in the last women's grass court final to be held at historic White City stadium tomorrow.

Top-seeded Shriver today advanced with a 7-5, 6-2 victory over West Germany's Claudia Kohde-Kilsch and earned a meeting with Sukova, who has her first chance of a New South Wales title, following her 7-6, (8-6), 6-1 semifinal win against American Patty Fendick.

The men's singles final sees Soviet surprise package Andrei Chesnokov pitched against Australia's 27-year-old John Fitzgerald.

Chesnokov, seeded 3, powered his way into his third Grand Prix final without dropping a set in his four matches. The athletic Russian had too much artillery and his willingness to go for his shots brought him victory over top-seeded South African Christo van Rensburg, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3).

Fitzgerald, seeded 5, scored a 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 victory in an earlier semifinal clash over America's Joey Rive and the popular Davis

Cup player is on the brink of becoming the last competitor to win a state championship played on a grass court surface.

Sukova, the Czechoslovak No. 1, didn't have everything her own way.

The 1984 Australian Open finalist was forced to rally from down three set points in a topsy-turvy tie-break game of the first set. Sukova, 22, led 3-0 in the tie-break game, but the Californian based Fendick, whose aggressive stroke play is well suited to grass court tennis, powered her way to a 6-3 advantage before losing momentum as Sukova ripped off five successive points.

"When I was down three set points, I thought: oh no, not three sets in this heat," Sukova said.

"I'm happy with my form going into the Australian Open and I really do enjoy playing the big tournaments."

Previous

Meanwhile Shriver served and volleyed with supreme confidence against Kohde-Kilsch and believes she will win the NSW Championship after contesting two previous finals in 1980 and 1987.

The White City grass court venue has hosted the state championships since 1885.

Kiwis edge home on penultimate ball

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 9, (Reuters): All-rounder Richard Hadlee again played an influential role as New Zealand beat Sri Lanka with one ball to spare in their World Series cup match at the Adelaide Oval today.

Man of the Match Hadlee checked the Sri Lankan charge for runs late in their innings of 241 all out off 49.5 overs by taking three wickets and then struck 25 off 33 balls to pilot New Zealand to the brink of victory.

Scoreboard

SRI LANKA
R. Mahanama c Blain b Saedden .51
B. Kuruppu c Hadlee b Morrison .23
A. Chandana c b Gillespie .7
P.A. de Silva c Jones b Chastfield .51
A. Ranatunga c Gillespie b Hadlee .42
R. Madugalle c M. Crowe b Gillespie .3
A. Samarasekera Gillespie .3
R. Ratnayake c Rutherford b Hadlee .23
G. Labrooy b Hadlee .0
E.A. de Silva c Chastfield b Morrison .15
C. Ramanaayake not out .13
Extras (lb-2 nb-6 w-2) .20
Total (49.5 overs) .241

Fall of wickets: 1-35 2-66 3-121 4-160 5-187 6-192 7-206 8-207 9-234.
Bowling: Morrison 5.5-1-39-2, Hadlee 10-1-35-3, Chastfield 10-1-43-1, Gillespie 10-0-40-3, Saedden 10-0-47-1, Patel 4-0-25-0.

NEW ZEALAND
K. Rutherford c Kuruppu b Ratnayake .1
J. Wright run out .61
A. Jones b Ramanaayake .63
M. Crowe c Gurusinghe b Ramanaayake .39
D. Patel c Kuruppu b P.A. de Silva 9
R. Hadlee c Gurusinghe b Ratnayake .25
T. Blain not out .25
M. Saedden not out .0
Extras (lb-2 nb-3 w-6) .19
Total (for six wickets, 49.5 overs) 242
Fall of wickets: 1-1 2-103 3-164 4-188 5-204 6-236.

Bowling: Labrooy 10-2-39-0, Ratnayake 9.5-0-44-2, Ramanaayake 7-0-47-2, E.A. de Silva 10-2-40-0, P.A. de Silva 9-0-41-1, Samarasekera 4-0-26-0.

Wright, captaining the side in place of Jeff Crowe who was rested, and Andrew Jones.

Wright made 61 and Jones 63.

Dismissed

TCCB chairman Raman Subba Row, who flew out to Pakistan with Smith after the Faisalabad row, was dismissed by the block of attempts to get the second Test re-started promptly.

Subba Row said: "We wanted Gattling and Shakoor Rana to shake hands in front of the pavilion, but that didn't happen and it was very disappointing."

"We went to Karachi (venue for the third Test) to press for an apology to be made to Gattling even though it was quite a time after the event. All we got in the end was an expression of regret."

Subba Row admitted that relationships were cool between the two boards and indicated that if England and Pakistan had been due to meet in a series next year it would have been in jeopardy.

The TCCB as a whole will be further discussing what Subba Row described as an "interim report" on the troubled tour. Until then, there can be no firm recommendation by the TCCB for the setting up of a panel of international umpires.

Bonus

Subba Row accepted personal criticism for making a bonus payment of £1,000 pounds (\$1,800) to each England player before the Pakistan tour ended.

He said: "It was me who made the decision and I made it just before we left Karachi. I am prepared to admit that perhaps it should have been made later, but the reason I did so then was because I've never seen an England touring side look so unhappy."

Getting not punished over Pakistan umpiring row

LONDON, Jan 9, (Reuters): England captain Mike Gatting has not been punished over his row with a Pakistan umpire, but English cricket officials warned yesterday that future dissent would be dealt with strongly.

The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) warning came after their inquiry into England's recent troubled tour of Pakistan, during which Gatting was involved in an angry exchange with umpire Shakoor Rana in the second Test at Faisalabad.

Gatting verbally expressed regret for his actions in Faisalabad to the TCCB executive committee when their inquiry opened on Tuesday.

Discussed

TCCB chief executive Alan Smith said Gatting's position as England captain was not discussed by the committee, who stated that they "accepted that the circumstances of this particular tour with its umpiring problems were exceptional."

The committee renewed the board's views on dissent and Smith said: "Any future dissent on the field will certainly be very strongly dealt with."

Gatting and team manager Mickey Stewart gave assurances to the TCCB executive committee that dissent similar to that which occurred in Pakistan will not happen again on the tour of New Zealand and Australia starting next week.

England players showed dissent in the face of some of the umpiring decisions in Pakistan, while Gatting's verbal row with Shakoor developed after he was changed his field as the bowler was running in. The quarrel resulted in a days' play being lost.

The TCCB issued a report after their inquiry in which they criticised the "very disappointing failure" of the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP), general Saffar Butt, to resolve the Faisalabad problem "fairly and equitably."

Krishnan crushes Pugh for final

AUCKLAND, Jan 9, (Reuters): India's Ramesh Krishnan is within reach of his second international tennis title in New Zealand within a week after comfortably winning his semifinal against American Jim Pugh at the Auckland Grand Prix tennis tournament today.

Krishnan beat Pugh 6-2, 6-2 in little more than an hour and will play second-seeded Amos Mansdorf in the final tomorrow.

Mansdorf got past Australian Brod Dyke 6-3, 6-4 with few worries in his semifinal.

But it is the Indian number one who will enter the final as the favourite, despite being unseeded in Auckland, as he has continued the fine form that won him a nationals title in Wellington last week.

Krishnan's delightful touch play and racket skills have bemused all who have taken the court against in the Grand Prix tournament. He has not dropped a set in reaching the final and has conceded just 20 games in four matches along the way.

Faulted

Today he broke Pugh in the fourth game of the first set to take a 4-1 lead. He held the serve to 5-2 and then Pugh meekly double faulted twice to hand Krishnan the set 2-6, losing the second set by the same margin.

Pugh said he felt tired after three tough three-set matches on his way to the semis and was looking forward to another chance against Krishnan.

He will get that opportunity at

the Australian Open this week where he is due to meet the Indian number one in the second round.

Mansdorf needed just one break to take the first set against Dyke but when he dropped the opening game of the second set there was the hint of an upset or at least a three-set struggle.

However, Dyke was only able to hold to 3-2 before Mansdorf broke back to level at three-all.

Dyke, serving at 4-5 to stay in the match, double faulted on match point to hand Mansdorf the easiest of rides into his fifth Grand Prix tournament final.

Americans Jim Grabb and Sam Giammalva beat the Swedish pair of Jonas Svensson and Magnus Tideman 6-2, 6-3 to enter tomorrow's doubles final.

Lendl begins his quest for place in history

MELBOURNE, Jan 9, (Reuters): Ivan Lendl, bidding to emulate Donald Budge and Rod Laver and become only the third man to achieve the Grand Slam in tennis, begins his quest with renewed confidence in Melbourne next week.

The world number one, past winner of three French and three United States Open titles, has never won the Australian championship which was traditionally played on grass before the opening of the new National Tennis Centre.

Opportunity

But the artificial rebound ace surface, faster than most hardcourts with a good bounce, appears ideally suited to the Czechoslovak's style and 27-year-old Lendl knows he will never have a better opportunity of winning all four major championships, like Budge (1938) and Laver (1969) before him.

"I will suit someone who can play well from the back of the court, set it up and then come in," said Slobodan Zivonovic.

The eighth-seeded Yugoslav's recipe for success fits Lendl like a glove and also applies to defending champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden, who is seeking a third successive Melbourne triumph.

"Only Lendl or a Swede can win here," was Australian Paul McNamee's gloomy verdict after practicing on the new surface.

Lendl, runner-up to Pat Cash at Wimbledon in 1987, has yet to win a grass court title of any description but he is a master of



Lendl: aims to join the greats

hardcourt tennis, having taken the last three US Opens, and the change here should markedly improve his chances of a place in tennis history.

He emphasised the seriousness of his 1988 campaign by arriving in Australia in mid-December and spending Christmas practising on a replica court at his coach Tony Roche's at East

Coast home.

The Czechoslovak, who will also be chasing American citizenship this year, played his first match on the surface this week in a challenge series against New Zealander Kelly Evernden and looked completely at home in his straight set victory.

Lendl, winner of \$12 million in career prize money and with a

personal fortune estimated at \$80 million, remained typically evasive about his chances, but Evernden was adamant. "He will be unbeatable on it," was the New Zealander's considered judgement.

The surface, laid at the new National Tennis Centre at a cost of \$42 per square metre, is comprised of layers of crushed rock, asphalt, polyurethane rubber, fibreglass and a final laminate surface.

The speed of the court can be adjusted by altering the thickness and consistency of this laminate. On a scale of 0-10, the Open courts are rated eight.

Edberg, world number two and the most exciting player here in the absence of John McEnroe and Boris Becker, believes the new surface should suit his game.

And coach Tony Pickard warned that the Swede's renowned high-kicking serve will be even more difficult to control than it was on grass.

Though he is the world's leading player on grass, Cash is not disheartened by the change of surface which he said should ensure the best player will win the championship.

"You can stay back if you want or you can come into the net. I think it makes it better all around."

"Grass tends to be a big server's paradise and clay more the other way around, so this is in between," said Cash who has laid a rebound ace court at his Melbourne home.

But Cash is less impressed with

the South Korean balls chosen for the tournament, the first time they have been used at a major event.

"The balls haven't really been tested properly. After a few minutes they start fluffing up like pineapples," Cash said. "When you get Mats Wilander playing Lendl, after one rally, which will last five minutes, the ball is going to be very fluffy," he added.

Cash is supported in his complaints by Martina Navratilova, winner of the Wimbledon and US crowns in 1987 but now ranked second in the world to West German teenager Steffi Graf.

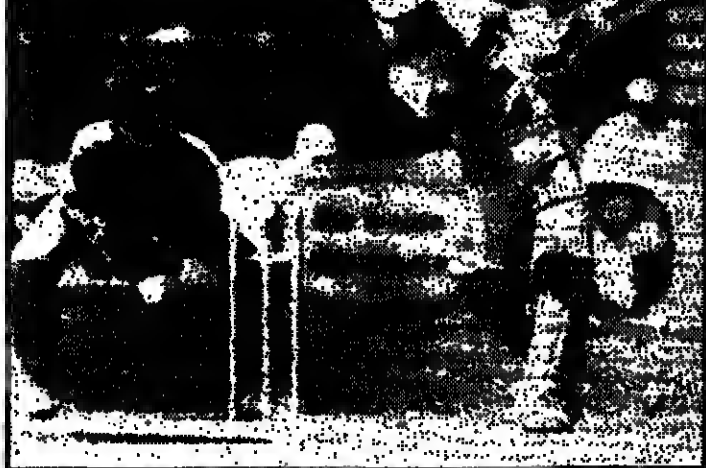
"They are not world class balls and they should not be using them at the Open. They fluff up and don't take spin, they get very heavy," said Navratilova, runner-up here 12 months ago to newly-adapted Australian Hana Mandlikova.

Replace

Both Navratilova and Graf have expressed satisfaction at the surface which plays less of a part in the slower women's game, especially as both players are a cut above the rest on any surface.

Navratilova showed how little the surface mattered when she was asked by organisers of the Open last year to voice an opinion on what should replace grass.

The American roared up in her Porsche to the area where the different surfaces had been laid out leaving the engine running, she picked up a ball, bounced it once on the rebound ace, said that would do her nicely and left in a cloud of dust.



Aravinda de Silve hits a four off Dipak Patel. (Reuters wirephoto)

Queensland take control

SYDNEY, Jan 9, (Reuters): Queensland took a firm grip on their Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania at the Brisbane Cricket Ground today when they forced the visitors to follow on.

At close of play on the second day, Tasmania were seven for one in their second innings, still 144 behind the Shield leaders' first innings total of 334.

Tasmania were bundled out for 173, pace bowler Carl Rackemann taking four for 51, and slipped into deeper trouble when they batted again. They lost opener Alistair de Winter in the second over when he was trapped leg before by former England skipper Ian Botham.

In Perth, fiery pace bowling by Victoria's Merv Hughes unset-

led Western Australia and left opener Mark McPhee needing nine stitches in a cut over his left eye.

After Hughes had ripped through the early batsmen, captain Graeme Wood (51 not out) and Wayne Andrews rescued the side with an 80-run partnership before Denis Hickie dismissed Andrews for 50 as Western Australia reached 179 for four at close.

Hughes took three for 58 off 13 overs.

Earlier, Victoria carried their overnight score of 251 for five to 333 all out, opener Dav Whatmore adding 14 to his first day's score of 156 before being bowled. He hit 25 fives in his 14-minute innings.

Vengsarkar unfit for Madras Test

NEW DELHI, Jan 9, (Reuters): Dilip Vengsarkar will miss the fourth and final Test against West Indies starting in Madras on Monday because of injury.

Vengsarkar, who took over the captaincy from Kapil Dev at the start of this series, was struck by a rising delivery from Winston Davis on the fourth day of the third Test at Calcutta last month.

Ravi Shastri led India in three subsequent one-day international matches in Vengsarkar's absence and will make his debut as a Test skipper in Madras.

West Indies lead the four-match series 1-0.

New contract</

SPORTS BRIEFS

1994 Games

LONDON, Jan 9. (Reuters): New Delhi has announced it will bid to stage the 1994 Commonwealth Games in a move that, if successful, would bring the major sporting event to Asia for the first time in the history of the Games.

Italian tennis

MILAN, Italy, Jan 9. (AP): American veterans Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe have entered the \$500,000 Italian Indoor Tennis Championships scheduled at Milan's Palatrussardi Arena Feb 15-21, organisers announced yesterday.

Haas triumphs

LECH AM ARLBERG, Austria, Jan 9. (AP): Zoe Haas of Switzerland today was declared winner in the season's third women's World Cup super-giant slalom after winner Sigrid Wolf and three other Austrians were disqualified for violating regulations.

Swim challenge

CANBERRA, Jan 9. (Reuters): Romania's Tamara Costache led the way as four East Europeans broke Australian all-comers records on the final day of an International Swimming Challenge today.

Road race

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 9. (Reuters): John Treacy of Ireland and Norwegian Ingrid Kristiansen are favourites to win the men's and women's competitions in what organisers describe as the world's richest road race tomorrow.

Seoul Olympics

MOSCOW, Jan 9. (Reuters): Romania, the only East bloc country to compete at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, has decided to take part in the 1988 Games in Seoul, the official Soviet news agency Tass said today.

NBA games

NEW YORK, Jan 9. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday (only games scheduled):

Atlanta	101	Cleveland	97
Boston	125	Washington	109
New Jersey	118	New York	111
Philadelphia	117	Los Angeles	103
Los Angeles	106	Detroit	104
Utah	111	Milwaukee	97
Portland	98	Sacramento	101

Mexico GP

MEXICO CITY, Jan 9. (Reuters): Organisers of the Mexican Formula One Grand Prix have reversed their decision to cancel the 1988 race, which is to go ahead as scheduled on June 5.

Thomas wins

DENVER, Jan 9. (AP): Debi Thomas edged Carolyn Kadday to win yesterday's short programme portion of the US Figure Skating Championships. Thomas, 20, skated first in the final group. Her routine, with a double toe loop-triple toe combination, earned her a steady mark of 5.8 for presentation from the nine judges. Her marks for technical merit included two 5.7s, six 5.8s and a 5.9 out of 6.0.

Irish cyclist

DUBLIN, Ireland, Jan 9. (AP): Stephen Roche, the first Irishman to win the Tour de France cycle race, has settled his differences with his Spanish team sponsor, Fagor, his agent said yesterday.

Chinese players

BELGRADE, Jan 9. (Reuters): Yugoslav soccer champions Partizan Belgrade have taken on two Chinese internationals, the coach of the team said today.

Bridge

RESULTS of the Sheraton Qatari Marathon Cup tournament played on Friday:

1. Aly Imam & Ehsan Abbasi
2. Frankie & Gregory Lalala
3. Adly Tiah & Magdi Mesdary
4. Ahmed El Tawil & Salah Zakky
5. Ibrahim Qattan & Marcel Zananiri

STOKE HOLD LIVERPOOL TO GOALLESS DRAW

Coventry open Cup defence in style

LONDON, Jan 9. (Reuters): Holders Coventry recovered some of the form which carried them to glory last season when they beat Fourth-Division Torquay 2-0 in their first defence of the English Football Association (FA) Cup today.

On a day of few surprises and no major shocks, all the giants of the English First Division avoided an undignified early exit at the hands of less-exalted opposition — but runaway leaders Liverpool had to be content with a 0-0 draw at Second-Division Stoke.

Emergence

Queen's Park Rangers survived an awkward assignment on the famous sloping pitch of minor League Yeovil and came away with a 3-0 victory. Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest won 4-0 at Halifax. Tottenham triumphed 4-2 at Oldham and Southampton won 1-0 at Reading.

Arsenal's London derby clash with Second-Division Millwall was marred by fighting before and during the match which kicked off 10 minutes late.

Marin Hayes opened the scoring for Arsenal with his first goal of the season after 11 minutes. Midfielder David Rocastle added the second 11 minutes later and Arsenal were then able to cruise to a comfortable victory.

Millwall's supporters, who wrecked Luton's Kenilworth Road stadium during an FA Cup quarterfinal in 1985, were not able to stomach their team's defeat, however, and infiltrated

the home sections of the ground. The police were stretched to contain them as fighting broke out for lengthy periods at both ends of Highbury.

Coventry scored twice in two minutes early in the second half to end Torquay's hopes. Captain Brian Kilcline converted a 59th minute penalty and former England striker Cyrille Regis hit the second.

Queen's Park Rangers' hero was striker Mark Falco who scored twice at Yeovil. Midfielder Kevin Brock added a late third for the Londoners, who had many people's favourites for a shock exit.

Tottenham, beaten by Coventry in last season's final, marched into the fourth round with a confident victory on Second-Division Oldham's synthetic pitch. England striker Clive Allen pounced after six and 23 minutes to put Spurs in command at Oldham and further goals from defender Mitchell Thomas and England winger Chris Waddle enabled them to overcome Oldham's lively response.

Nottingham Forest had no problems in crushing Halifax with goals from Terry Wilson, Stuart Pearce, Calvin Plummer and substitute Paul Wilkinson.

Matthew Le Tissier scored Southampton's winner at Reading two minutes before the interval.

In the three all First Division ties, Chelsea produced the most impressive performance with a 3-1 win at Derby. It was their first win in 10 outings.

Kevin McAllister, Kerry Dixon and Roy Wegerle scored



A rowdy football fan is taken away by police at the start of the Arsenal and Millwall game. (Reuters wirephoto)

for the Blues. Dave Penney replied for struggling Derby.

West Ham beat fellow-London club Charlton 2-0 with goals from midfielder Liam Brady and striker Tony Cottee and Sheffield Wednesday drew 1-1 with Everton.

Colin West shot Wednesday ahead in the 77th minute, but England midfielder Peter Reid levelled four minutes later.

Several First Division clubs made their status count against Second Division opponents including Portsmouth, who won 2-1 at Blackburn, Newcastle, 1-0 victors over Crystal Palace, Oxford, who beat Leicester 2-0, and Wimbledon, who thrashed

Harlepool	1	Luton	2
Huddersfield	2	Manchester C	2
Leeds	2	Aston Villa	2
Mansfield	4	Bath	0
Newcastle	1	Crystal P	0
Oldham	2	Tottenham	0
Oxford	2	Leicester	0
Plymouth	0	Colchester	0
Reading	0	Southampton	0
Sheff Wed	1	Maidstone	0
Sheff Wed	2	Everton	1
Sheff Wed	2	Bristol R	0
Stockport	1	Leyton O	0
Stoke	0	Liverpool	0
Sutton	1	Middlesbrough	0
Swindon	0	Norwich	0
Walsford	0	Hull	0
West Ham	2	Charlton	0
Wimbledon	4	West Brom	3
Yeovil	0	QPR	0

Playing Sunday: Ipswich v Manchester United, Port Vale v Macclesfield.

English Division Three

Aldershot	0	Walsall	1
Barnet	0	Northampton	1
Bury	2	Rotherham	1
Chesh	2	Southend	1
Doncaster	1	Fulham	2
Nottingham	3	York	0
Preston	3	Bristol C	0

English Division Four

Burnley	2	Newport	0
Darlington	2	Carlisle	1
Exeter	3	Swansea	1
Hartlepool	1	Truro	1
Peterborough	1	Rotherham	1

Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup

Albion v Cowden	0-0	Replay	0-0
Berwick	0	Brechin	1
Buckie Thistle	2	E. Stirling	3
Fraserburgh	3	St Johnstone	0
Gala F.C.	3	C.S. Strollers	0
Queen's Park	2	Ayr	0
Stenhousemuir	1	Arbroath	0
Stranraer	6	Keith	2

Scottish Premier Division

Dundee U	0	Falkirk	0
Dunfermline	0	Hearts	0
Hibernian	0	Aberdeen	0
Motherwell	3	Dundee	0
Rangers	3	Mother	0
St Mirren	1	Celtic	1

Scottish Division One

Airdrie	3	Kilmarnock	3
Clyde v Meadowbank	postponed		
Clydebank	3	Raith	0
East Fife	3	Dumbarton	4
Forfar	3	Hamilton	0
Queen of S	0	Partick	0

Top seeds out of World GP

HONG KONG, Jan 9. (UPI): None of the top four men's seeds managed to make the semifinal lineup, leaving England's Darren Hall and Malaysian Misbun Sidek to share the spotlight in yesterday's closing round-robin stage of the \$134,390 Seiko World Grand Prix badminton finals.

Hall and Sidek both had to snatch come-from-behind third round victories to qualify for the knockout stage.

Hall was well-tested by unheralded Yeung Yik Kel of Hong Kong before winning 7-15, 15-10, and Sidek was taken to three sets in subduing Denmark's IB Frederiksen 10-15, 15-9, 15-5.

Topseed Yang Yang of China, who lost to Sidek Thursday, out-gunned Denmark's Torben Carlsen 15-4, 15-7, but it was not

enough to keep him in the competition.

Second-seeded Dane Morten Frost was still sidelined with the hamstring injury which forced him to retire in the third set of Tuesday's match against Hall, while fourth-ranked Zhao Jianhua of China was forced to withdraw with a twisted back.

Eddy Kurniawan, of Indonesia, took the default win over Jianhua and will face Hall in one semifinal.

The other playoff sends Sidek against China's Xiong Guobao, who upset third-seeded Indonesian Luk Sugiarto 15-5, 15-8.

In other men's matches, Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen of Denmark beat Tsui Chau Lam of Hong Kong 15-10, 15-4; Jens Peter Nierhoff of Denmark, defeated Foo Kok Keong of Malaysia, 15-9, 18-7, and See Yu of Australia,

took a default win over Frost.

In Women's action, top-seeded Han Aiping of China defeated Japan's Sumiko Kitada 11-0, 12-11 to earn a semifinal clash against compatriot Qian Ping, who upset South Korean Young Suk Lee 7-11, 11-6, 12-10.

The other playoff sees Denmark's Kirsten Larsen, who downed Elizabeth Latief, of Indonesia, 11-4, 11-9, play second seed Li Lingwei of China, who beat South Korea's Sung Suk Chun 7-11, 12-9, 11-5.

Late news

SEMI-FINALS Men's singles: Xiong Guobao, China, def. Misbun Sidek, Malaysia, 9-15, 15-1, 15-5; Eddy Kurniawan, Indonesia, def. Darren Hall, England, 8-15, 15-7, 17-15; Women's singles: Han Aiping, China, def. Qian Ping, China, 11-8, 11-8; Li Lingwei, China, def. Kirsten Larsen, Denmark, 11-7, 11-6.

Pakistan crush Kenya

LUCKNOW, India, Jan 9. (Reuters): Former world champions Pakistan struck form late in the match to thrash Kenya 5-1, while the Soviet Union overcame South Korea 2-0 in group matches at the Indira Gandhi Hockey Tournament today.

Pakistan were being held 1-1 until the 53rd minute but then took complete command.

After Nasir Ali set up Qazi, who scored his second goal of the match, Mohammad Irfan made it 3-1 in the 63rd minute and Wasim Feroz added another from the top of the circle.

Shahbaz Ahmad converted

Ishtiaq Ahmad's through pass just before the end to complete the scoring.

Pakistan had opened the scoring in the 17th minute through a penalty corner which Mohammad Qazi converted from Nasir Ali.

Kenya drew level in the second half when George Ocweng gained possession of a weak clearance by Rizwan Munir and pushed it to Peter Akas who scored the equaliser.

In the second match, holders Soviet Union were held to a goalless first half before they could assert their dominance.

Zurbriggen wins Cup race

VAL D'ISERE, France, Jan 9. (AP): Pirmin Zurbriggen, after seconds in the first two downhill, won his first World Cup race of the season today with a convincing victory at this famed French resort.

Zurbriggen, the Swiss skier who took two gold and two silver medals at last year's World Championships and was the overall World Cup winner, posted the fastest time over the Oreiller-Killy course — 1 minute, 57.10 seconds.

Austria's 29-year-old veteran, Anton Steiner, took advantage of a late-breaking sun to come in second with 1:57.64, edging Marc Girardell, the Austrian who skis for Luxembourg, third with 1:57.67.

France scored in fourth and sixth respectively with Franck Piccard, 1:57.87, and Christophe Plet, 1:57.91. Italy's Michael Mair was fifth in 1:57.87.

The race was delayed about 30 minutes after an accident involving a snow tractor killed one person and injured three others near the course.

Two-way tie for golf lead

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 9. (Reuters): Australian Ossie Moore shared the lead with Britain's World Matchplay champion Ian Woosnam on nine-under-par 135 after the second round of an international golf tournament today.

Woosnam, golf's biggest money-earner in 1987, and Moore shot six-under 66s but

face a tough day tomorrow when they must play 36 holes in torrid heat after Thursday's first round was postponed due to rain.

American Raymond Floyd was in second place, one stroke off the pace, with Australian Lucien Tinkler. Overnight leader Nick Faldo blew out with a five-over-par 77 after shooting a six-under yesterday.

Dutchman killed in Paris-Dakar Rally

ARLIT, Niger, Jan 9. (Reuters): A Dutch rally driver was killed today when his truck rolled heavily in the first fatal accident of this year's Paris-Dakar race.

Kees Van Loewezijn, 31, died in his 600-horsepower Daf turbo twin truck on the 668 km desert stage between the Niger towns of Djado and Arlit.

His two teammates, Dutchman Theo Van de Rijt and Scotsman Chris Ross, were seriously injured and had to be cut from the wreck.

It was the 19th death in the 10-year history of the event.

A spokesman for rally organisers TSO (the Thierry Sabine Organisation) said Van Loewezijn's truck rolled 25 kms into the stage. The Daf was lying in 21st place overall.

Doctors said Ross had multiple injuries and was in a serious condition. Van de Rijt had fractured limbs as well as face and head injuries. Both were due to be flown to Paris later by private air ambulance.

The 22-day rally had already run into deep trouble. After four days in the Sahara desert only one-third of the 603 starters were still in the race. Competitors have blamed the gruelling conditions for a series of accidents and the high number of retirements.

Yesterday's stage, a 742-km desert stretch nicknamed the "Hell Trail," and classed as one of the hardest in the rally, was cancelled because of a shortage of helicopter fuel made it impossible to monitor the race from the air.



File picture of Van Loewezijn (right) with his teammates who were injured. (Reuters radiophoto)

Indian players to protest over BCCI ruling

MADRAS, India, Jan 9. (Reuters): India's cricketers are expected to make a strong protest over an official ruling that Thursday's one-day match against West Indies in Ahmedabad was part of the scheduled eight-game limited overs series.

S. Srinaman, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said today the match, which West Indies won by two runs, would count towards the series, giving the touring team a 4-1 lead.

Boycott

He said he was confident the Indian players would not boycott the remaining three games of the series.

Indian skipper Ravi Shastri said he would announce his team's position on the ruling

after a meeting with his players. "I will give you a very strong answer tomorrow morning," he told reporters at the Madras stadium where the two teams start the fourth and final Test on Monday.

West Indies manager Jackie Hendricks declined to comment on the decision until he had spoken to the Indian board.

Earlier in the day, Shastri told Reuters the Indian team did not regard the match as official and said he expected the Indian board to agree with him.

In a statement, Srinaman said the Ahmedabad match had been agreed by both the Indian and West Indian cricket boards last August when they signed an accord to play five Test matches and six one-day internationals.

Pasig beat Marikina

PASIG defeated Marikina 3-1 on Friday as the First Filipino Non-Pro Bowling League held its first games for this year. The League has now completed its sixth week and there are eight games left to play in the tournament being held at Club 300.

Marikina won the first game but lost the others. Pasig were well served by their veteran players Art Cabal, Arthur Reyes, Mars Balisi, Mario Evangelista, Boy de Jesus, Lynne Reyes, Ding Abdulrehman, Boy Bagat, Julie Teves and Nestor Sogale.

Milo Coronado of Manila displayed his mastery to break the record in the Men's High Game with a score of 244 besting the old mark of 236. Lando Cahuro,

also of Manila, won the Men's High Series of the day with 572 pinfalls.

Eva Sahay of Caloocan City and Gloria Estandarte of Pasay City shared the Women's High Game with 190. Eva, however, took the Women's High Series with a score of 525.

In the other matches: Makati-GMBH edged Paranaque 2-1, 2-1-1-2; Pasay City beat Valenzuela 3-1; Manila thrashed Quezon City 4-0; Mandaluyong beat Las Pinas 2-2 and Caloocan City crushed Malabon 4-0.

In the teams standing, Caloocan stayed at the top, Las Pinas were second, Pasig third, Manila fourth and Pasay City fifth.

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